

Censure motion against Netanyahu government rejected

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli parliament rejected by 55 votes to 50 with two abstentions a censure motion brought by the main Labour opposition against the right-wing government of Benjamin Netanyahu, a spokesman said. The opposition put down the motion attacking the government for the deadlock in the peace process and the worsening of the economic and social situation. Negotiations with the Palestinians have been frozen since work on a new Jewish settlement near Jerusalem began on March 18, though both sides decided Monday to resume limited talks. Meanwhile unemployment is rising, reaching 7.7 per cent from 7.1 per cent at the beginning of the year, according to official figures.

# Jordan Times

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## Thousands rally against curbs on Islamist education in Turkey

ANKARA (AP) — After allowing a pro-Islam demonstration in downtown for five hours, police moved in Tuesday on some 15,000 protesters, using clubs and pressurized water to disperse the crowd. The protesters were denouncing the new government's plans to curb religious education as demanded by the military. The demonstrators did not have the required permit to hold a rally, but it was tolerated for some hours.

## New deputy head for Israeli armed forces

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Israeli army Monday announced the appointment of Iranian-born Major General Shaul Mofaz as its second-in-command. Mr. Mofaz, 49, will replace Major General Matan Vilnai as deputy military chief of staff, the army spokesman said in a statement. "Vilnai will be a candidate for chief of staff when Lieutenant General Amnon Shabak retires, and until then will be on study leave," it said. Gen. Mofaz was born in Iran in 1948 and immigrated in 1957. He joined the army as a paratrooper and fought in the 1967 and 1973 Mideast wars, and in the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon. In 1976 he took part in the commando rescue of Israeli and Jewish airline passengers held hostage in Uganda.

## Yemeni authorities announce arrests after attacks in Aden

SANAA (AFP) — Yemeni authorities said they had made an unspecified number of arrests after three petrol stations were attacked with sticks of dynamite in the southern city of Aden on Monday. The interior ministry said the security forces had arrested "persons suspected of involvement in terrorist acts," without giving details. Eyewitnesses said two people had been slightly injured in the attacks, which were not claimed. But police reported no casualties in the simultaneous blasts in different areas of Aden, capital of the former south Yemen before unification in 1990.

## Iraq to set up Saddam faculty of Islam

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraqi authorities decided Tuesday to set up an Islamic faculty to be named after President Saddam Hussein and which will be "free of fanaticism," the official news agency INA announced. The Saddam faculty aims to train imams "in line with Islamic principles of tolerance and free of confessionalism and sectarian fanaticism," it said. The secular Baath Party has been in power since 1968, while the mainly Sunni Muslim government has often been at loggerheads with the Shiite clergy which is influential in the south of Iraq. During the 1991 Gulf war over Kuwait, President Saddam ordered the words "Allah Akbar" (God is greatest), taken from the Koran, to be emblazoned across the Iraqi flag. Two years later, he added Koranic studies to the curriculum of Muslim schoolchildren and Bible studies for Christians.

# Mubarak pays lightning visit to Jordan; King to repay visit soon

Relations emanate from peoples' interest in peace — King

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak paid a lightning but "comforting" visit to Jordan on Tuesday in which he discussed with His Majesty King Hussein continuous peace efforts in the current circumstances.

President Mubarak's stopover, which followed a visit to Syria, was a "continuation of the efforts Egypt is exerting [to boost peace efforts] especially under the circumstances," King Hussein told reporters at Queen Alia International Airport after his meeting with President Mubarak. During the one-hour closed meeting, the two leaders discussed latest developments in the peace process and means of overcoming obstacles in Palestinian-Israeli talks. President Mubarak briefed the King on the outcome of his earlier talks with the Syrian president; and the King briefed the president on his meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy that took place in Amman earlier on Tuesday.

"The meeting was a chance to discuss all issues concerning peace, the region, and bilateral relations. It was a comfortable visit," the King said. The King underlined the importance of the Egyptian role in supporting peace initiatives and boosting peace efforts.

"We appreciate Egypt's distinguished role. It is only Egypt that can play such a role."

In response to a question over the pessimism that the Syrian president had expressed in Damascus towards progress in the peace talks at a joint press conference with President Mubarak, the King said: "I am not informed about any statement made by any of my brethren today except for my talks with President Mubarak. As for the result, we will continue to ensure that a just, comprehensive, and honourable peace is achieved in the region."

"We will support our Palestinian brethren with all our powers and capabilities," he said.

President Assad expressed little hope for peace with Israel and was quoted by AFP as saying that "nothing justifies optimism or shows that we are close to establishing peace. Nothing in the attitude of the Israeli government proves that it is advancing on the path to peace."

The King expressed hope that progress will be made on the Syrian-Israeli, Lebanese-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli tracks noting that Jordanian-Israeli relations should be based on people's belief in peace.

"Relations emanate from the peoples' interest in pursuing peace [as a prelude] to leading a dignified life," he said.



His Majesty King Hussein greets Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Tuesday upon the president's arrival in Jordan for a short visit (Photo by Yousef 'Allan)

The King, replying to a question over Israel's attitude towards peace at a time when its Arab partners to peace talks regard peace as a strategic matter, said: "I have long tried to know what is happening on the ground but I believe there is some slowdown... [The peace talks] are not moving fast enough," the King said expressing hope that there will be a breakthrough soon.

The King hoped that Jordan will resolve all suspended issues with Israel such as water, borders and refugees "when the time is ripe."

But stressed that "the basis [of peace] should be strong enough to achieve the peace that we want for this region."

President Mubarak, who was accompanied by Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Jazouli and his ministerial team, left Amman in the evening shortly after his talks with the King. The planned meeting between the Jordanian and Egyptian top officials did not take place, neither did the scheduled press conference.

But Jordan's Ambassador to Egypt Nayef Qadi told the Jordan Times that the

King will pay a visit soon to Egypt to continue talks.

"This meeting comes at a crucial time to help Palestinians achieve progress," Minister of Foreign Affairs Faysal Tarawneh said. "There are positive indications for the resumption of Palestinian-Israeli committee meetings. Jordan and Egypt are continuing their coordination to boost peace efforts in that regard."

Jordan and Egypt which signed peace treaties with Israel, have been trying to bring the Palestinians and the Israelis back to the negotiating table.

## PNA-Israel reach breakthrough on talks — Levy

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy Tuesday said that Israeli and Palestinian negotiators succeeded in reaching a breakthrough on the stalled peace process during their talks in occupied Jerusalem on Monday.

Mr. Levy said that Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) have agreed to resume their talks soon, but did not give a date.

"During our meeting in Jerusalem with Dr. [Nabil] Shaath, we decided to resume talks of the joint committees. This is a very important step forward," Mr. Levy said in a joint press conference with his Jordanian counterpart, Faysal Tarawneh, following his meeting with His Majesty King Hussein at the Royal Court.

The Israeli minister said that the "Palestinian Authority has to work hard to stop terrorism and violence," and added that the two sides "will work to clear the atmosphere which would give an impetus for peace in the region."

"Despite all hurdles, we will carry on in our task. We want to work together to overcome the problems of this stage to implement the agreements between us," said Mr. Levy.

His Majesty King Hussein, who met with Mr. Levy, called upon Israel to "stop the policies and practices that hinder peace process progress," Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

His Majesty emphasised on the necessity to overcome obstacles that impede Israel's talks with the Palestinians.

Following Mr. Levy's arrival at the Royal Court, His Majesty held a closed-door meeting with the Israeli minister which was followed by an expanded meeting that was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Jordanian and Israeli officials.

Dr. Tarawneh said that Jordan was satisfied with the "progress" achieved between the Palestinian minister for planning and international cooperation, Nabil Shaath, and Mr. Levy.

"Our main concern is the progress on the Palestin-

ian-Israeli track. We were encouraged by the recent developments," Dr. Tarawneh said.

"We do not think that they should only concentrate on the two or three issues of the airport, the harbour and the safe passage, but I think that issues like prisoners, redeployment and also issues of security, which is a main concern for Israel and the Palestinians," should be discussed, he said.

"Because those [issues] would then lead the two parties to solid grounds when they face the hotter issues of the final status [talks]," Mr. Tarawneh said.

"We want to activate the trilateral relationship between the Israelis, Palestinians and the Jordanians because, ultimately, we have to look at this triangle as the core," he added.

But "definitely, this is a serious attempt to put the process in the right perspective. We consider this a confidence building measure that would lead to a positive result," he emphasised.

Dr. Tarawneh said the other concern of Jordan is "bilateral relations. We believe that we can improve the mechanism of implementing many of the unimplemented issues or weak implementation of issues, like trade for example, or the issues of the Jordan Rift Valley, which we do not believe is a project oriented concept. It is more global and wider than just a mere small project," Dr. Tarawneh added.

"We are satisfied with the implementation of such provisions [of the peace treaty] but we still have to look at matters especially of economic nature, and we will hopefully have the time today," he said.

"We agreed that we will have direct channels of communications between the two foreign ministers in addition of course to the diplomatic channel," Dr. Tarawneh added.

The Israeli minister said that the talks he held with Jordanian officials "were held in a positive atmosphere with an intention to develop our bilateral relationship."

(Continued on page 2)

## While settlements go on, PNA slides back to negotiations table

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Step by step, the Palestinians are moving back to the negotiating table which they stormed away from last March, although they have been unable to force Israel to back off settlement expansion.

When Israel began construction on a new Jewish settlement in east Jerusalem four months ago, the Palestinians protested by calling a halt to all levels of the peace process.

They refused to start final status negotiations on schedule in late March and walked out of nine joint committees set up to work out leftover Israeli commitments from the 1995 interim self-rule accords.

The Palestinians insisted they would not hold any negotiations unless Israel called a halt to settlement building, while the Israelis repeatedly rejected the condition.

As a result, the peace process has been dead in the water.

But on Monday, both sides agreed to reactivate the committees in a bid to "build confidence" by making progress on the long-delayed interim issues.

The committees had been created in January to work out implementation of Israeli commitments such as allowing the opening of a Palestinian port and airport in the Gaza Strip, the construction of a "safe passage" from the West Bank to Gaza, and the release of Palestinian prisoners.

Palestinian International Cooperation Minister Nabil

Shaath, announcing the resumption of the committees on Monday, underlined that the crisis over settlement building was not over.

"The issues which cause the deadlock are still in place, namely the settlements and the issues in Jerusalem," Mr. Shaath said.

There must be a "stop in settlement building in every location so that we can have final status negotiations," he said.

But in the end, Palestinian National Authority (PNA) was unable to maintain a full rejection of negotiations amid growing U.S. pressure and fears that Palestinian frustration would burst into violence.

"The Palestinian position is weak and will remain weak," said Khalil Shakaki, a Palestinian political observer. "The Palestinian (National) Authority fears that if violence erupts it will get out of its control. Violence would be detrimental for everyone, including the Palestinians," Mr. Shakaki told AFP.

It also feared that the United States would reduce its economic aid to the Palestinians if the deadlock continued, he told AFP.

At the same time, President Yasser Arafat may hope to "strengthen his position" by winning progress on the interim issues, which are seen as vital to repairing the ailing Palestinian economy, he said.

Progress could pave the way for Palestinians to get a better deal in a three-stage army redeployment which



## Palestinian shot dead after stabbing

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A Palestinian man was shot dead Tuesday after stabbing an Israeli soldier near a Jewish settlement in the West Bank, the army spokesman said. Israel Radio and army radio said the Palestinian had blocked an army jeep on patrol by standing on the road, and then stabbed the commander of the jeep when he got off. The army spokesman said the incident took place near the settlement of Eilon Moreh. The soldier was lightly wounded, and one of the other soldiers shot the Palestinian dead, the spokesman said. A Palestinian official identified the dead man as Muath Alawini, 17, a factory worker.

## Netanyahu wants another \$16 million for settlements

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has asked parliament for another \$16 million to expand Jewish settlements in the West Bank, officials said Tuesday.

The funds, to be approved by the finance committee under the control of Mr. Netanyahu's right-wing coalition in the Knesset, are aimed at building infrastructure in the settlements, parliamentary sources said.

The commission already approved Monday an additional \$26 million to build housing in the settlements.

Members of Israel's Labour opposition party, including former Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, denounced the government, which they said "preferred to invest in the settlements instead of poor areas."

Mr. Shohat added that the government was also "putting the peace process with the Palestinians in danger."

Mr. Netanyahu broke from the policy of the previous Labour government and began a drive to expand Jewish settlements in occupied Palestinian lands after he was elected last year.

The expansion plans, including the construction of new housing in occupied Arab east Jerusalem, has brought the peace process with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to the verge of collapse.

## Bedouins in Israel prefer prison to military service

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Almost half of Bedouin youths living in Israel believe the Jewish state has no right to exist and three quarters of them would risk prison rather than do military service, according to a survey published Tuesday.

Of those polled, 70 per cent said they feel more Palestinian than Israeli and 55 per cent said they would prefer to live in an Arab state or in the West Bank, while 48 per cent believe the state of Israel does not have the right to exist.

Some 75 per cent would also rather go to prison than serve with the Israeli army, according to the survey by

the University of Beersheba of 351 Bedouin youths living in the Negev desert in southern Israel.

In Israel, Arabs are exempt from doing military service but some Bedouins serve voluntarily, mainly as trackers.

Around 85,000 Bedouins live in the Negev, of whom more than half live in tents, and another 38,000 live in the north of Israel.

For years, Israel has been encouraging them to settle but many want to maintain their traditional nomadic lifestyle, which has provoked numerous conflicts over land ownership.



# Iraq will increase rice, lentils in August ration

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqis will receive more rice and lentils in their monthly ration starting in August, the government announced Tuesday.

The Trade Ministry, which oversees food distribution, said that rice will be increased to 2.5 kilograms from two kilograms while lentils will be doubled to one kilogram, according to the official Iraqi News Agency (INA).

August will be the second consecutive month in which Iraq's 20 million people get

all nine food and cleaning items agreed to under the U.N.-approved oil-for-food programme.

Iraq has been under U.N. sanctions that prohibit the sale of its oil since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, which set off the Gulf war. The U.N. Security Council has said the sanctions will not be lifted until Iraq has eliminated its weapons of mass destruction.

Limited oil sales began last December under the special oil-for-food programme, with proceeds ear-

marked for food and medicine for Iraq's 20 million people.

In addition to rice and lentils, the monthly ration includes nine kilograms of flour, two kilograms of sugar, one kilogram of cooking oil, 150 grammes of tea, 150 grammes of salt, 350 grammes of detergent and 250 grammes of soap.

Parents with infants are eligible for milk rations, too.

The United Nations had been pressing for the increase in rice and lentils for August, but the govern-

ment had hesitated on grounds it did not have sufficient supplies in its warehouses.

Iraq has repeatedly complained of slow deliveries under the oil-for-food programme and charged that the United States was holding up the approval of food contracts at U.N. headquarters.

The government said earlier this month that Iraq has received 1.1 million tonnes of food so far — half of what it has issued contracts for.

## 4 Tehran municipal officials accused of corruption arrested

TEHRAN (R) — Iranian police have arrested four senior officials of the Tehran municipality for alleged financial corruption, Iranian newspapers reported on Tuesday.

The English language Iran News and Iran Daily said among those arrested were Tehran municipality's financial and administrative director, its security chief and the mayor of a Tehran suburb.

They did not say who the fourth official was.

"Those arrested face accusations of financial corruption in connection with their duties," Iran News said.

Iran Daily said the arrests followed recent calls by senior clerics and supreme leader.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, declaring "war on financial corruption and illegally acquired fortunes."

Iranian leaders have called for tough action against corruption following a series of trials for embezzlement and fraud at state agencies and banks in recent years.

Ayatollah Khamenei earlier this month called for stepping up the fight against corruption in Iran and rejected suggestions that tough action might discourage investors.

One of Iran's leading clerics, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, on Friday called for swift trials for people who had amassed legendary wealth overnight. He

said conventional court procedures took too long.

The anti-corruption drive has taken a political turn with hardline and conservative Islamic newspapers and parliament deputies calling for investigations into moderate officials close to outgoing president, Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and president-elect Mohammad Khatami, who takes over on Aug. 3.

Iran News said Tehran Mayor Gholam Hossein Karbaschi was a supporter of Mr. Khatami and had been accused of mismanagement by hardline conservatives defeated in the elections.

## Egypt building largest prison in Middle East

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt is building a prison that it says will be the largest in the Middle East, a senior Interior Ministry official said Tuesday.

Brigadier Nabil Siyam, who is responsible for prisons, told Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) that the new facility at Burg Al Arab, 200 kilometres northwest of Cairo, will be ready by the end of the year.

"The new prison, which will include 32 wards, can take up to 12,000 prisoners and comply with health, psychological and social dimensions," Brig. Siyam said.

Brig. Siyam said the aim was to build prisons far away from residential areas. He said that the land of prisons being closed in urban areas would be auctioned to get funds for "modern prisons."

International human rights groups, including the London-based Amnesty International, have accused Egypt of detaining thousands of people on suspicion they are members of outlawed Islamist militant groups or their supporters. Under Egypt's emergency laws, they can be held for months without charge or trial.

The human rights groups have charged that prisoners often are mistreated and sometimes tortured.

Brig. Siyam denied that mistreatment took place in Egypt's prisons.

## Kuwait sizes up artillery deal in China

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A Kuwaiti technical team is in China to discuss a potential artillery contract for which South Africa, Britain and the United States are also bidding, Western industrial sources said Tuesday.

The technical team, including members of a special committee assessing the multi-million dollar deal, left for China last week to seek clarification on several points, including the performance of the Chinese gun, the sources said.

The Chinese are offering their PLZ 45 in competition with the British AS90, South African G6 and M109 A6 Paladin of the United States. All the pieces are self-propelled.

155mm Howitzers.

Kuwait is seeking guns for up to three battalions or up to 72 pieces, which could be worth as much as \$600 million if support equipment is included, the sources said.

Parliament's finance and economic committee said Sunday it discussed the artillery deal as part of a review of the defence ministry budget for 1997-1998 and the rearmament plans. But no further details were given.

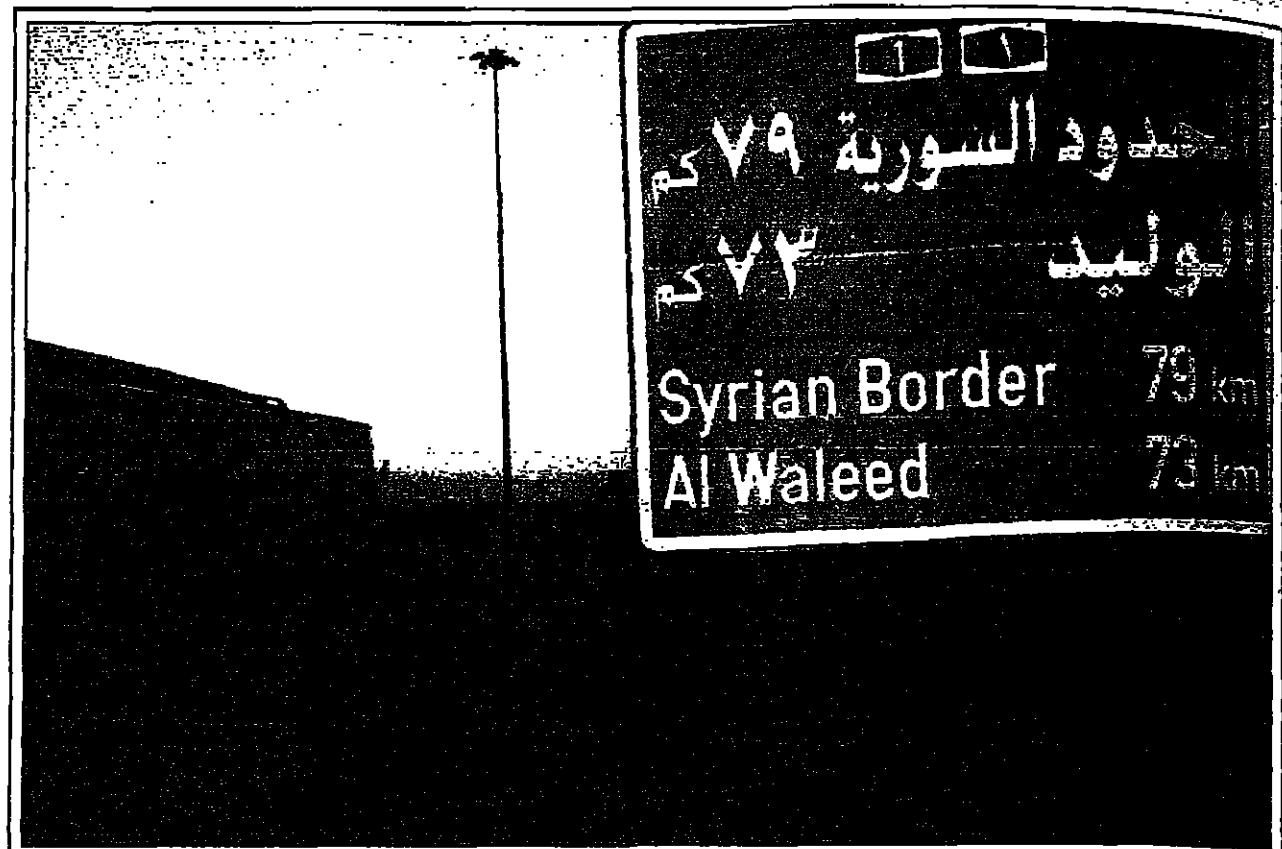
Kuwait has said no decision on the deal has been taken, but Western analysts say Kuwait may be under pressure from China, a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, to buy the Chinese weapon.

Beijing denies this.

China has yet to win a contract in Kuwait's 12-year, \$12 billion rearmament drive launched after the 1991 Gulf war, when Iraqi troops were expelled from the emirate by a U.S.-led multinational coalition.

British and U.S. officials, during visits here, have stressed that any gun chosen should be able to operate alongside other equipment bought for Kuwait's armed forces.

U.S., British and French equipment have so far dominated the arms sales.



NEW POLITICAL ROADS OPENED: An Iraqi bus chartered by a private company and carrying around 30 Iraqi businessmen heads to Syria, Tuesday. Relations between Syria and Iraq have warmed over the last three months and their border has reopened to businessmen after a closure of 15 years (AFP photo)

## Israeli army unprepared for war — report

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli army is ill-prepared for war and vulnerable to attacks by biological or chemical weapons because of a shortage of funds, according to a report Tuesday.

"[The army] is not ready to go to a new war and its rear defence is not protected against an attack by non-conventional weapons because of a lack of funds," the officer said in a report to a parliamentary defence sub-committee.

The report, which highlights problems of outdated equipment and weapons shortages, comes a week after the right-wing government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

voted to slash \$57 million from defence spending, amid rising tensions in the Middle East.

Army Chief of Staff General Amnon Shahak said the lack of funds "threatens the army's preparations for war."

Gen. Shahak warned that Syria is preparing "a military offensive option" and that Israel must be concerned about the development of long-range missiles of up to 1,300 kilometres by Iran.

"The army could still win all its wars, but it must have the means to bring about victory more easily," Gen. Shahak said.

The officer's report said the army has to use obso-

lete vehicles and is suffering a shortage of ammunition in its emergency supplies. In addition, some weapons are outdated, threatening the efficiency of tanks and artillery.

The number of training days for some fighting units has been reduced by two-thirds from previous years and the number of operational combat helicopters has also been cut, it said.

In addition, spending to protect Israel from possible attack by chemical or biological weapons has been limited this year to just \$6 million compared with \$30 million in previous years.

The army says it needs an extension of \$430 million

over the next two to three years to return to previous military levels.

Labour opposition MP Ephraim Sneh, a sub-committee member, slammed the government for "bringing us closer to war by its policies but not giving the army the means to confront the danger."

The defence spending cuts announced last Wednesday formed part of an overall \$230 million budget cut for 1997 and have been sharply criticised by Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

The Israeli defence budget has been forecast at \$8.6 billion a year, including \$1.8 billion of U.S. aid.

## PNA-Israel reach breakthrough on talks — Levy

(Continued from page 1)

and to cooperate to speed up the peace process and improve ties that would enable us to live in a peaceful atmosphere."

"We agreed that the contacts between the two sides will be direct and in a continuous manner. We will work together to overcome the hurdles and reach an understanding to enhance the relationship between the two countries," Mr. Levy said.

Mr. Levy said that Israel wants to make peace with Syria but said that peace with Damascus will only be possible under certain conditions.

"The ambition of the

Israeli government is to reach peace with Syria. We believe that the talks with the Palestinians are not enough," he said.

"Our ultimate objective [concerning Syria] is to stop attacks in southern Lebanon and to reach a point where we can discuss a future where there is no threats or negative stimulation that could bring preventive reactions," Mr. Levy added.

The Israeli minister congratulated His Majesty the King on the victory of the Kingdom's national soccer team over Syria and "hoped that Israel would manage to accomplish a good result in soccer as Jordan has done."

## While settlements go on, PNA slides back to negotiations table

(Continued from page 1)

Israel was supposed to carry out from parts of the West Bank still under its control by mid-1998.

The redeployments were suspended when Israel proposed to hand over a further two percent of the West Bank to self-rule in its first phase in March and the Palestinians rejected the redeployment as too small.

But events will come to a head once more over the issue of final-status talks, which are supposed to determine the central issues of the peace process, including the shape and powers of a Palestinian entity.

"As it stands, there is

not enough to create conditions allowing the Palestinians to return to final-status negotiations," Mr. Shakaki said.

Israel has given little indication it will stop or even suspend widespread expansion of settlements in the West Bank or construction at Jabel Abu Ghneim, he said.

"Perhaps privately it has shown some flexibility on slowing down the pace of settlements," Mr. Shakaki said.

"But we cannot be sure the final-status talks will even be held. If there is progress on the interim issues, it may come just as the next crisis erupts," he said.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME TWO  
15:35 .....French Programmes  
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17:30 .....Forests of the World  
18:00 .....French Programmes  
19:00 .....News in French  
19:30 .....News Headlines  
19:35 .....Step by Step  
20:00 .....Soldier's Diary  
20:30 .....Challenges  
21:10 .....Spencer For Hire  
22:00 .....News in English  
22:30 .....Land's End  
23:15 .....American Gothic

### PRAYER TIMES

04:15 .....Fajr  
05:44 .....(Sunrise)Dhuha  
12:42 .....Dhuhr  
16:23 .....Asr  
19:40 .....Maghreb  
21:09 .....Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifich, Tel. 810740  
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St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
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771751.  
Amman International Church Tel. 5516245  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295  
English-speaking Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology  
Moderate summer weather conditions will prevail with clouds appearing at low altitudes and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.  
Amman .....18/29  
Aqaba .....26/37  
Deserts .....17/34  
Jordan Valley .....24/37

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 30, Aqaba 38 Humidity readings: Amman 45 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Abbas Al Hakim .....885446  
Dr. Arafat Al Ashhab .....602507  
Dr. Ayman Al Muhtaseb 875748  
Dr. Jamal Jbara .....847351  
Firas pharmacy .....661912  
Ferdows pharmacy .....890280  
Al Asena pharmacy .....637055  
Al Salam pharmacy .....636730  
Yacoub pharmacy .....644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660  
Najib pharmacy .....623672  
Najib pharmacy .....847632  
IRBID:  
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir .....276852  
Al Quds pharmacy .....(—)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Ya'qoub Al Khatib .....991772  
Khalifeh pharmacy .....985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency 199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade .....617101  
Blood Bank .....775121  
Highway Police .....843400  
Traffic Police .....896390  
Public Security Department 630321  
Hotel Complaints .....605800  
Price Complaints .....661176  
Water and Sewerage Complaints .....897467  
Amman Municipality Com-

plaints .....787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) .....121  
Overseas Calls .....010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs .....623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101  
Jordan Television .....773111  
Radio Jordan .....774111  
Water Authority .....680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615  
Electric Power Company 636381  
RJ Flight Information 08-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity, 644281/6  
Akhil Maternity, 642441/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman .....636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071  
Shmeisani Hospital 669131  
University Hospital 845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9  
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali .....664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3  
Al-Bashir, .....775111/26  
Army, Marka .....891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50  
Amal Hospital .....674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery .....865199  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990  
IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275535  
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275  
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (527700) or 08(53250).

Flights  
08:05 .....Damascus (RJ)  
09:25 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
09:30 .....Jeddah (RJ)  
10:15 .....Larnaca (RJ)  
10:45 .....Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
15:55 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
17:30 .....Madrid (RJ)  
17:40 .....Toronto, Montreal (RJ)  
18:05 .....Istanbul (RJ)  
18:05 .....Paris (RJ)  
18:40 .....Brussels, Geneva (RJ)  
19:05 .....Rome (RJ)  
19:10 .....Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)  
19:10 .....London, Berlin (RJ)  
20:30 .....Zagreb (add) (RJ)  
00:15 .....Beirut (RJ)  
01:05 .....Cairo (RJ)  
04:25 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

### Other Flights

09:15 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)  
11:00 .....Sanaa, Hudaidah (Y)  
12:00 .....Jeddah (SV)  
13:00 .....Al Arish (PF)  
13:10 Doha, Abu Dhabi (GF)  
13:15 .....Cairo (MS)  
13:50 .....Tel Aviv (LY)  
14:30 .....Tunis (TU)  
15:05 .....Vienna (OS)  
16:20 .....Algiers (AH)  
16:30 .....Dubai (EK)  
17:00 .....Doha (QR)  
19:30 .....Istanbul, Damascus (PK)  
20:40 .....London (PK)  
21:10 .....Beirut (ME)  
21:10 .....Paris, Damascus (AF)

23:20 .....Istanbul (TK)  
23:25 .....Amsterdam (KL)  
23:30 .....Athens (OA)  
05:15 .....Ankara (TK)  
07:50 .....Amsterdam (GA)  
Royal Wings (RW)  
08:45 .....Aqaba (RW)  
10:05 .....Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
10:50 .....Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
18:20 .....Tel Aviv (RW)  
19:30 .....Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
22:20 .....Aqaba (RW)  
23:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

### DEPARTURES

09:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
10:50 .....Rome (RJ)  
11:45 .....Zagreb (RJ)  
11:45 .....Berlin, London (RJ)  
12:45 .....Istanbul (RJ)  
20:10 .....Colombo (RJ)  
20:35 .....Beirut (RJ)  
21:00 .....New Delhi (RJ)  
21:10 .....Cairo (RJ)  
21:10 .....Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)  
21:15 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)  
21:50 .....Bombay (RJ)  
22:05 .....Dubai, Muscat (RJ)  
23:00 .....Bahrain (RJ)  
23:45 .....Sanan (RJ)

08:45 .....Beirut (ME)  
08:50 .....Amsterdam (GA)  
09:25 .....London (BA)  
10:00 Damascus, Istanbul (PK)  
12:00 .....Hudaidah, Sanan (Y)  
13:30 .....Jeddah (SV)  
14:00 .....Al Arish (PF)  
14:00 .....Bahrain, Muscat (GF)  
14:15 .....Cairo (MS)  
15:10 .....Tel Aviv (LY)  
15:30 .....Tunis (TU)  
15:50 .....Vienna (OS)  
17:20 .....Sharjah (AH)  
17:45 .....Dubai (EK)  
17:50 .....Doha (QR)  
20:15 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)  
21:40 .....Denpasar (GA)  
23:55 .. Damascus, Paris (AF)  
00:25 Damascus, Amsterdam (KL)  
00:25 .....Ankara (TK)  
04:00 .....Athens (OA)  
06:15 .....Istanbul (TK)

Royal Wings (RW)  
07:45 .....Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
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## Princess opens seminar in Salt

SALT (Petra) — HRH Princess Sumaya Bint Al Hassan Tuesday opened a two-day seminar in Salt regarding the city's history, current situation and future aspirations.

The seminar was organised by Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre in conjunction with the Salt Municipality and the Salt Development Corporation (SDC).

Director of Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre Hani Hourani explained that the seminar, the first of its kind to cover Salt, will include a comprehensive historical study of the city.

As the first town founded in the Kingdom, its status as a commercial centre and its role in economic and cultural development are key to a thorough understanding of Jordan, Mr. Hourani stated.

He expressed hope that urban institutions, both governmental and private, would coordinate their work to assist residents and promote public service.

Salt Mayor Hani Khreisat also addressed the opening session as did SDC Chairman Marwan Hmoud who underlined the city's role in Jordan's economic, cultural and social life.

Princess Sumaya, deputising for HRH Crown Prince Hassan, led the seminar's discussions which covered Salt's historical role, architecture, the city's municipality, heritage and urban planning and organisation.

Several reports are also to cover tourist, industrial, educational, health and environmental issues as well as Salt's infrastructure.

Other papers will discuss the role of women, youth and sports in the city's development.

The meeting is to conclude Wednesday with a roundtable to be attended by Balqa senators and deputies to discuss residential services and comprehensive development.

## Children's Congress petitions for freedom of passage in Arab World, youth parliaments

By Nadia Makhails  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Freedom of passage between Arab countries and a youth parliament in each, were the major petitions of the 17th Arab Children's Congress which closed yesterday at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC).

The congress, according to Director Lina Tal, reflected the unity and solidarity of Arab countries as demonstrated by activities and plays illustrating the aspirations of a future generation.

The congress is a unique cultural event which considers children's input in providing a stronger generation, capable of facing future challenges, Ms. Tal affirmed.

The closing ceremony included a play, performed by all of the participating

children, expressing unity and ideas for creating a better future.

The play was directed by Iraqi artist, Sa'ad Abbas.

Each child received certificates and presents conferred by HRH Prince Hamza Ben Al Hussein on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Noor, patron of the event.

The children also presented gifts to the Prince as a means of expressing their thanks to Jordan, its national role and concern with youth-related issues.

They expressed their appreciation to the Queen and stated their hopes that the annual event might help refine future Arab generations.

The Queen initiated the Arab Children's Congress following the 1980 Arab Summit Conference in Amman.

Participants stated that

the expression, discussion and exchange of views concerning the challenges and ambitions of the children's future strengthened bonds and illuminated prospective visions.

The children petitioned for freedom of passage within the Arab World, the formation of youth parliaments, responsible for providing officials with information regarding education, and requested that foreign languages and computer skills be taught in school at earlier stages.

They also asked that all Arab children be provided with free medical insurance as well as cultural and recreational clubs.

The congress emphasised the importance of education as well as discouraging young children from quitting school to work and eliminating drug abuse.

The congress, which last-

ed ten days, included delegations from 12 Arab countries.

The theme of the convention was "Challenges and Ambitions of Future Arab Generations," and featured diverse programmes of activities which included brainstorming sessions with specialists on the role of various media in promoting Arab culture and cross-cultural understanding.

The young participants visited archaeological sites in Petra and Um Qais.

The objectives behind the congress were to unite Arabs, promote dialogue and exchange ideas to forge bonds of friendship while cultivating activities, reflection and action to promote peace, understanding, solidarity and tolerance, Ms. Tal concluded.

## 'Government to replace sugar, rice, powdered milk subsidies with cash'

AMMAN (Petra) — The government will replace its present subsidy of sugar, rice and powdered milk with cash for limited-income groups, as stipulated by a Cabinet decision Tuesday.

A total of 720 fils per person, per month, starting in October, will be the allocated amount, it said.

The following is a summary of the Cabinet's meeting as reported by acting Minister of State for Information Affairs Nasser Lawzi:

Food coupons, issued earlier by the Ministry of Supply and enabling the public to purchase the three commodities at subsidised prices, will be retrieved and cash subsidies will be offered in their stead.

Limited-income groups which earn less than JD 500 monthly have received government subsidies and food coupons since 1991 that they might purchase milk, rice and sugar at reduced prices.

The Cabinet, meeting under the chairmanship of acting Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour, reviewed the

Kingdom's general strategic food reserves and reaffirmed its determination to continue with plans to enable the private sector to participate in securing same.

However, the Ministry of Supply will continue to act, whenever deemed necessary, to prevent monopoly of food supplies and to secure food and animal feed reserves in sufficient quantities.

Ministry warehouses will duly store a three-month supply of wheat reserves, a two-month supply of rice reserves and a one-month supply of sugar reserves as a precautionary measure in the case of any national emergency or shortage in local markets.

The Cabinet also approved the creation of a special fund to finance road maintenance and develop a consultancy board for that fund prior to introducing legislation to be approved by Parliament.

The Ministry of Public Works and Housing will direct the fund's 12-member board and group public and private sector representatives therein.

The Cabinet also formed Jordan's delegation to the joint Jordanian-Malaysian committee to be led by Minister of Foreign Affairs Fayez Tarawneh.

The group will facilitate the opening of a Jordanian embassy there.

It also approved the formation of a Jordanian delegation, to be led by Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf, to attend a governors of the World Bank meeting, due to convene in Hong Kong on September 20.

The Cabinet will announce tenders to attract consultancy services to help the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications implement a railway project, linking Amman with Zarqa and Sweileh.

It approved a European Investment bank loan, totalling \$600,000, to be used by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation for the preparation of designs and tender documents for a Greater Amman Municipality (GAM) water scheme.

## '1998 dedicated to aiding the disabled'

AJLOUN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Mamer

Tuesday affirmed that his ministry would dedicate 1998 to caring for the disabled as it would for other less privileged groups.

Addressing an Ajloun branch of a General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) meeting, Dr. Mamer asserted that special attention will be focused on destitute families, especially those which include members who are in some way handicapped, suffer from broken ties, juvenile delinquents, indigent senior citizens, persons suffering from illness or children.

At least 80,000 disabled

persons in Jordan remain bereft of medical care, Dr. Mamer stated.

Therefore, non-governmental organisations, including GUVS, must join with the ministry to aid those in need, he maintained.

In addition to the 33,000 families which currently receive financial aid from the National Aid Fund (NAF), the Ministry of Social Development estimates another 40,000 families as eligible for governmental assistance, Dr. Mamer said.

Over the past decade, the NAF has allocated JD 500 million in cash aid to both the poor and unemployed and the fund is determined

to continue this mission, he added.

Through the government-planned social security package, the ministry hopes to facilitate self-reliance among the needy through small-sized income generating projects, Dr. Mamer explained.

The package has designated JD 500 million to redress poverty in stages, he added.

GUVS Executive President Abdullah Khatib confirmed that GUVS has distributed 4,000 sewing machines to homemakers seeking to improve their standard of living as well as that of their families.

While GUVS will pursue this traditional assistance, it

also plans to increase aid in order to help families initiate small businesses, he stated.

Last month, Dr. Mamer reported that families composed of seven members, whose combined income amounts to JD 80 or less will receive an additional JD 60 a month from the fund in order to improve their standard of living.

A family whose main income earner is elderly and/or unemployed, and has children aged between 18 and 21, will receive a loan to initiate a small business or be covered by the social safety package programme, he said.

## JCO inaugurates dairy plant

KARAK (Petra) — The Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) this week inaugurated a dairy processing plant in the town of Adar, in the Karak governorate, financed by the World Food Programme (WFP).

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, JCO Director General Khaled Tayyeb confirmed that the WFP offered JD 200,000 to finance the plant which is slated to maintain a daily production capacity of 4,000 litres.

"This plant is the fruit of cooperation between the JCO, the Jordanian Cooperative Societies and the WFP to help farmers produce superior milk products," Mr. Tayyeb stated.

The plant will also produce cheese, dried yoghurt and cooking fat, he said.

WFP Representative Mustafa Milad described the project as capable of producing dairy products to meet the entire region's needs.

Plants similar to this one will be set up in Ma'an, Salt and Madaba, in

addition to a smaller size plant in Deir Alla, Mr. Milad affirmed.

Jordan's cooperation with the WFP dates back 25 years, he added.

According to Mr. Milad, the WFP plans to develop projects to increase agricultural output, develop pastures for cattle breeding and other related projects.

The implementation of these proposals has an estimated cost of JD 16 million.

## Jordan, Cyprus to pool tourism efforts

NICOSIA (Petra) — Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides Tuesday stated that Cyprus and Jordan might successfully combine efforts to increase tourism to both countries.

In a meeting with Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sa'd Hayel Srour, currently visiting Cyprus, Mr. Clerides stated that Jordan and Cyprus hold great tourism potential and might both intensify cooperation and exchange official visits to achieve this goal.

He also expressed Cypriot appreciation of Jordanian endeavours towards a just and comprehensive regional peace.

Mr. Srour outlined the general political situation in the Middle East and Jordan's policy regarding same.

The speaker met earlier with the Cypriot foreign minister,

who expressed his country's desire to promote links with the Arab World.

He briefed his hosts on parliamentary life in Jordan as well as the Kingdom's endeavours to achieve a comprehensive regional peace.

Mr. Srour, accompanied by deputies Abdul Karim Dughmi and Aref Bataineh, met with his Cypriot counterpart and parliament members as well as heads of local political parties.

The group discussed the Middle East peace process and Jewish settlement plans in Jerusalem.

Agreement was reached between the two sides to launch joint efforts to further economic and parliamentary relations.

## Yugoslav Airlines to resume flights to Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Yugoslav Airlines (JU) will resume once-weekly flights to Jordan from Belgrade, beginning August 9, according to both the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and JU Commercial Officer in Amman Hanna Petro Tuesday.

"Initially we will operate a single weekly flight between the two countries, however flights could increase depending on the volume of air traffic between Yugoslavia and Jordan," Mr. Petro stated.

He told the Jordan Times that JU flights to Amman were suspended in 1992 following U.N. air sanctions stemming from the then war in the Balkans.

According to the CAA, the agreement on the resumption of flights followed contacts with the Yugoslav Civil Aviation

Authority as U.N. sanctions have since been lifted.

"JU flights will be conducted in cooperation with Royal Jordanian (RJ) (Jordan's national air carrier)," Mr. Petro confirmed.

Royal Jordanian will not operate any flights to Belgrade for the moment, he added.

Before the U.N. sanctions, Royal Jordanian operated a single weekly flight between Amman and Belgrade, Mr. Petro stated.

The resumption of the flights will encourage tourism and the economy in both countries as it will Jordanian students studying in Yugoslav universities, he added.

A renewed air alliance will also increase bilateral trade, he concluded.

## European Union Baroque Orchestra to perform in Jerash, Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The European Union (EU) is marking its first-time participation in the Jerash Festival with two concerts by the European Union Baroque Orchestra (EUBO) on Aug. 3 at the North Theatre and Aug. 4 at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman.

According to a statement by the Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities in Jordan, the orchestra was created in 1985 as part of the European Music Year and has since continued as a training initiative of the European Parliament and European Commission (EC).

Through the financial support of the EC and principle sponsor, Matsushita Electric Europe, the orchestra trains talented young postgraduate musicians from all over the European Union, who are on the threshold of a career in the expanding field of Baroque music.

Each year, a completely new orchestra is chosen from the most talented young students who are setting out on professional careers as Baroque Orchestral musicians, the statement said.

Selected by audition, the 25 players are members of the orchestra for six months, commencing with training and rehearsals in preparation for a wide-ranging international tour of concerts in collaboration with the world's finest directors.



The European Union Baroque Orchestra for 1997

This year's orchestra contains 10 different nationalities — Austrian, British, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Swedish — with an average age of 25.

Under the supervision of the Music Director Roy Goodman, the players were selected in April in France and trained by a highly integrated team of specialists, each of whom is at the top of the profession: Margaret Foulds and Lucy van Dael (violin), Martin Kelly (viola), Jaap Der Linden (cello), Maggie Urquhart (double bass), Marten Root (flute), Katharine Aiken (oboe), Marc Vallon (bassoon)

and Lars Ulrik Mortensen (keyboards). Some of the instruments and bows used by the orchestra are recently-made precise copies of instruments dating from the early 18th century, the statement said.

Other instruments are originals dating from 17th, 18th and 19th centuries — the double bass hails from the 19th century as do two violins, one violin dates back to the 17th century, three violins from the 18th century as does one cello. In 1996, the EUBO featured concerts in Belgium, Denmark, for the Cultural Capital Celebrations, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands,

Portugal, Spain, and the United Kingdom. Debut performances were in South Africa and Botswana, as well as tours to Cyprus, Israel and Turkey, under the auspices of the EC delegations in those countries.

This year, the EUBO will be visiting Jordan, Syria, Tunisia and East Jerusalem for the first time, and making return visits to most of the EU countries and Estonia and Hungary.

The concert programme in Jerash and Amman will include Vivaldi, Telemann, Quantz, Heinenich, Rameau, Bach, Corelli and Handel, according to the statement.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### JERASH FESTIVAL

Concert by the European Union Baroque Orchestra at the North Theatre and Royal Cultural Centre.

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### FILM

Children's film "The Page Master" at the British Council, Jabal Amman at 5:00 p.m.

### MUSIC

Musical performance by Harvard University band at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

Paintings and ceramic sculptures by Arab artists at the Orient Gallery, Shamsiyan (Tel. 681303) until July 31.

Display of Bani Hamida hand-made products at Bani Hamida House, Jabal Amman, until July 31 (Tel. 6589677).

Photo exhibition entitled "Jerusalem in Danger" by Samir Al-Zaghar at the Modern Educational School, Khazna until July 31.

Paintings by Ali Al-Ghoni at Greater Amman Municipality Cultural Department, Ras Al-Ain until July 31.



## East-West clash on rights, Burma closes ASEAN talks

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — ASEAN and its top 10 partners closed annual talks here Tuesday with an East-West clash on human rights and persistent differences over how to handle Burma.

The three days of meetings between the nine-member Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its Western and regional partners also pointed up an East-West conflict over the currency crisis besetting South East Asian states.

The Asians Tuesday backed a review of the 1948 Universal Declaration on Human Rights, which Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad said was formulated by "superpowers which did not understand the needs of poor countries."

But a U.S. official warned such a move could "dilute or undermine" human rights which were "universal values."

The U.S. and European Union delegations also refused to drop their differences with their Asian counterparts over relations with Burma.

Western nations reluctantly accepted Burma's presence at the talks after ASEAN induced its army-ruled neighbour last week, along with Laos. But they continued harsh attacks on the junta's record on political and human rights.

After U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright bluntly accused the junta of complicity in drug trafficking and money laundering, an EU representative said Europe would continue to block aid to Burma until it showed "fundamental movement" on democracy and human rights.

Burmese Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaaw, who sat through three days of attacks by ASEAN's Western partners, told the closing news conference that "wrong reports" in the press were to blame for "misconceptions" about human rights in Burma.

Also speaking at the news conference, the foreign ministers of Malaysia, the Philippines, China and Indonesia reacted strongly to the U.S. warning against seeking to review the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the United States might have strong views on the subject — which was not on the agenda of the annual meeting between ASEAN and its 10 key partners — but "we do have equally strong views."

The clash led a senior Philippine official to comment with resignation: "This is going to be the headline tomorrow."

Earlier headlines focused on Malaysian-led allegations that U.S. financier and pro-democracy crusader George Soros was behind recent speculation against South East Asian currencies.

U.S. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns defended Mr. Soros as "an honourable man," adding: "It is not fair to blame one individual for what is clearly economic forces at work."

Nugroho Wisnumurti, director of the Indonesian Foreign Ministry's political bureau, said dryly: "This is the U.S. view. It is not necessarily the same view as ours."

The 19 countries managed to agree on one issue — plans for a fresh ASEAN mission to Cambodia, where Second Prime Minister Hun Sen effectively deposed First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh early this month.

The political crisis prompted ASEAN to defer Cambodia's scheduled entry alongside Burma and Laos until a later, unspecified date.

Participants continued to differ, however, on whether to use aid to Cambodia as a lever against Mr. Hun Sen, and again the breakdown was along East-West lines.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Burma, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Its "dialogue partners" are Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, South Korea and the United States.

Meanwhile, Burmese Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaaw Tuesday hit back at media and Western criticism that Rangoon was not doing enough to promote human rights and curb drug trafficking in the country.

"The press has been writing wrong reports based on the context of people opposed to the government," Mr. Ohn Gyaaw said at a news conference winding up the week-long ASEAN meetings in Malaysia's capital city.

"Myanmar (Burma) has been cooperating with the Human Rights Commission in Geneva and the U.N.," Mr. Ohn Gyaaw said. "As a representative of the country, what I am providing is what is going on in the country...what I am providing is the facts."

The Burmese minister said a 15-chapter constitution was being drafted by Rangoon's military government after consultation with "all parties."

He did not say if those consulted included the opposition, led by the leader of the Burmese democracy movement Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been shut out from government despite winning national elections.

Mr. Ohn Gyaaw said the constitution was being finalised "and we're now dealing with a very delicate chapter on power sharing."

Mr. Ohn Gyaaw, replying to U.S. statement, said the drug problem in Burma was a legacy left behind by the country's colonialists, and the military government has been fighting the scourge since the country gained independence.

He said Burma has signed pacts with China, Thailand, India, Bangladesh, Laos and Vietnam to battle drug traffickers.

"The main focus of these agreements is on reducing drug trafficking and production: eliminating poppy cultivation through economic and social development programmes and reducing the demand for, and consumption of, drugs," he said.

Mr. Ohn Gyaaw said Burma has also cooperated with every U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency inspection since 1993 and has even produced a manual, "Control of Money Laundering in Myanmar," to prove its commitment against money laundering.



A skeletal North Korean pre-schooler sits on the floor of his kindergarten in North Korea's Kangwon province. According to Ted Yamamori, president of Food for the Hungry International, at least five million people in North Korea are badly hit by starvation which is reaching 'the level of the notorious Somalia and Ethiopia famines' (Reuter photo).

## Africa-style famine hits N.Korea — aid group

SEOUL (R) — At least five million people in North Korea are suffering from a crisis of starvation that is reaching "the level of the notorious Somalia and Ethiopia famines," the leader of an aid group said Tuesday.

"It is a disaster in the making," Ted Yamamori, president of Food for the Hungry International, said in Seoul after visiting the North last week.

He said signs of malnutrition were widespread in the North and many could die if the country did not get immediate foreign help.

"The consensus of aid workers operating in North Korea is that at least five million people are badly affected by famine," Mr. Yamamori said in an interview with Reuters.

He was echoing recent concerns by the United Nations World Food Programme that famine had definitely hit the Communist state, whose food stocks had run out.

"About 30 to 50 per cent of children I saw in kindergartens had signs of serious malnutrition. I saw thin legs and arms, hair turned brown, sagging skins, lethargic faces and glaring eyes," he said.

Mr. Yamamori, who visited North Korea from July 22 to July 26 to monitor the distribution of 120 tonnes of wheat flour donated by his group, quoted Northern officials as saying about one-fifth of the country's arable land was seriously affected by drought.

"The people of North Korea appear to be suffering from hunger on the level of the notorious Somalia and Ethiopia famines," he said. "Only in North Korea, they are suffering in silence out of the view of the world's media."

Food for the Hungry International is a Geneva-based private agency that offers food aid and development programmes in cooperation with international relief groups.

Pyeongyang's official media said Tuesday that a record heatwave in July had worsened its food situation. "The drought from the high temperature is inflicting a serious damage on agriculture and other domains of the national economy," it said.

"Urgency is obvious," said Mr. Yamamori. He visited the North twice last year when floods decimated food supplies and caused an estimated \$1.7 billion worth of damage in the country.

He quoted Jong Yun-Hyong, director of external affairs at North Korea's Flood Damage Rehabilitation Committee, as saying that Pyongyang needed at least 800,000 tonnes of grain in additional foreign aid until the next harvest in October.

Mr. Yamamori said he saw hundreds of women carrying buckets over their heads to water corn fields in the evening. "They mobilised everybody — soldiers, students, women, children."

Seoul officials said they believed there were pockets of areas in the North where people faced famine, but that the problem was due to poor transport and distribution systems.

"Of course the North has serious problems. But on a national scale, it could avoid famine with foreign help," said one official at the National Unification Ministry.

Recent warnings by aid groups about the plight of North Korea coincide with efforts by the two Koreas, the United States and China to hammer out a peace settlement on the Korean peninsula, which has been locked in fierce confrontation since the 1950-53 Korean War.

Next Tuesday, senior officials of the four nations are due to meet in New York to set an agenda and other procedural details of the talks.

"Hopefully, four-way peace talks will ease the situation in North Korea. That is a key at this point," Mr. Yamamori said, noting that Washington and Seoul had been spearheading international efforts to provide relief supplies to the North.

Washington and Seoul have pledged \$52 million and \$16 million, respectively, to the world food programme's appeals this year for aid to the North. The South Korean Red Cross has promised another \$20 million worth of food supplies.

South Korea has said large-scale assistance could be discussed during the peace talks.

## Haitians protest against U.N. peacekeepers

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (R) — Demonstrators burned tires and threw rocks at United Nations peacekeepers and many Haitians stayed home Monday in response to a call for a general strike to protest the presence of foreign troops.

"Hit the road go home" onlookers yelled at passing Canadian U.N. peacekeepers. The call by grassroots political organisations for a national strike was respected to varying degrees throughout Haiti, with reports of tires burning in the northern city of Cap-Haitien and deserted streets in some smaller cities.

Some businesses in the capital were closed but as the day wore on, activity in the streets picked up. There were no reports of serious violence or injuries.

"Everything is basically peaceful," U.N. spokeswoman Patricia Tume said. The U.N. Security Council was expected to vote this week on whether the troops will stay in Haiti four months past the current July 31 deadline. An extension would be the latest in a series that has maintained a U.N. presence since March 1995.

The U.N. troops took over the work of securing Haiti from 20,000 U.S. troops who restored then-President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power in the fall of 1994.

## 'Drunk' train driver dies as Indian crash toll hits 13

NEW DELHI (AFP) — An Indian train driver blamed for a weekend train disaster which left a dozen dead and 82 injured died of his injuries here Tuesday, the United News of India (UNI) said.

N.H. Elif, who has been accused of being drunk and of overshooting a signal just before the high-speed collision, died in a new Delhi hospital, pushing the death toll up to 13.

He suffered head injuries when his express train ploughed into a stationary train near the Indian capital Sunday, leaving another 82 people injured.

The Karnataka Express was on its way to New Delhi from the southern city of Bangalore. The stationary train was travelling from the south coast to Kashmir in the north.

Doctors said Elif had been in a coma since the accident. The driver was suspended Monday for allegedly overshooting a signal near the industrial town of Faridabad, south of Delhi, just before the midnight collision.

The Times Of India newspaper Tuesday, meanwhile, said the driver's assistant had told railway investigators that Elif had been drinking. Indian Railway officials were not available for comment.

It was the worst train collision in India since August 1995, when around 300 people died in a similar disaster near the northern town of Agra.

Twenty-five passengers injured Sunday are in critical condition. An inquiry is currently being held into the crash.

Railway Minister Ramvilas Paswan, however, told parliament Monday: "Prima facie, the cause of the accident appears to be overshooting of the signal by the driver of Karnataka Express."

The Times Of India newspaper said Elif normally operated freight trains and only took over the express just three hours before the accident after the original driver failed to appear.

Railway officials have conceded Elif may have been unfamiliar with the route. The accident has sparked demands for Mr. Paswan's resignation. Angry opposition members of parliament alleged that Mr. Paswan rarely attended work and had ignored safety standards.

India has one of the world's largest railway networks, covering 62,000 kilometres with 7,100 stations. Indian trains carry around 13 million passengers daily.

## Kashmir rebels reject India's offer for talks

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Kashmiri separatist guerrillas Tuesday rejected Indian Prime Minister Indira Kumar Gujral's offer for talks to end a seven-year-old separatist insurgency in the Himalayan region.

"We reject the offer of talks because Gujral's offer is for only the misguided youth of Kashmir and we are not misguided, we are fighting for a sacred cause, for the freedom of Kashmir," the Shoura-e-Jihad guerrilla alliance said in a statement published in local newspapers.

Mr. Gujral offered Saturday to hold unconditional talks with "the misled youth of Kashmir" to end the revolt in Kashmir. On Sunday, he said the guerrillas must lay down their arms first.

"I have always been willing to talk to the young boys who are our own children like in a family," he told parliament Monday.

The Shoura-e-Jihad (advisory council for holy war) is a coalition of six major separatist groups fighting for Kashmir's merger with neighbouring Islamic Pakistan.

Three other rebel groups are fighting for Kashmir's independence from both India and Pakistan. New Delhi controls two thirds of the territory and Pakistan the rest. India is mostly Hindu while the province has a Muslim majority.

Talks on Kashmir are only possible when Shoura-e-Jihad and Hurriyat agree to it, the guerrilla alliance said. The all parties Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference, which bans some 30 separatist, political and religious groups, said Monday it wanted to be included in talks between India and Pakistan over Kashmir.

Talks between the two arch-rivals resumed in March after three years of tense silence. The next set of negotiations, which follows talks between Mr. Gujral and his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif in May and a second round of lower level discussions, is scheduled for September.

Both India and Pakistan, who have fought two wars over Kashmir since 1947, claim the entire region. Islamabad denies New Delhi's charges that it arms the separatist rebels, and says it provides only diplomatic and moral support to the insurgents.

Police and hospitals say more than 20,000 people have been killed since the rebellion erupted. Police had been "arrested" for spying for Indian intelligence.

Mr. Ghose's family and the New Delhi-based AVARD deny the charge. The kidnapping has been widely condemned, with Calcutta-based Mother Teresa and Amnesty International demanding his immediate release.

## Blast in Mexico social club kills 9

MONTERREY, Mexico (R) — An explosion ripped through an upscale social club in northern Mexico Monday and rescue officials said at least nine workers were killed and more remained trapped in the rubble.

"Most of the dead were completely crushed. The walls caved in on top of them," Antonio Garcia, a medical official from the Green Cross of Monterrey, told Reuters.

Dozens were injured in the blast that officials said was caused by a gas leak from a water heater in the basement of the Industrial Club building on the outskirts of Monterrey, some 480 kilometres north of Mexico City.

The dead were mostly builders who were eating lunch and playing football in the parking lot where the force of the explosion hit hardest.

National broadcaster Radio Red quoted rescue officials saying the death toll was at least nine and that at least two more were trapped in the rubble.

State Governor Benjamin Clariond said nine people were killed. But a Reuters reporter saw a body carried out on a stretcher long after the other dead had been removed.

The local Red Cross said it had up to nine wounded, and the Green Cross said there were 15 other people injured, some with broken bones and severe burns.

Two of the dead were cleaning the outside of top-floor windows when the explosion ripped through the building. They were blown to their deaths and shards of window glass were scattered for hundreds of yards around, rescue workers said.

In the parking lot, a luxury Grand Marquis Ford car was "blown to bits," Mr. Garcia said.

Reporters, who were kept away from the building by police for fear of follow-up explosions, could see three large holes in the structure. Parts of the building appeared to be on the verge of collapse.

The Industrial Club, a new building in the hills on the edge of Monterrey, is used by the business community in the prosperous city for private parties.

Relatives of the workers gathered at the police cordon, crying and begging to know the fate of their loved ones. There were no names immediately available.

Ms. Albright was greeted on arrival at Singapore's Changi Airport by Singapore's ambassador in the United States, Chan Heng Chee, and U.S. ambassador here Timothy Chortba.

During her two-day trip, she is scheduled to tour the local manufacturing facilities of U.S. computer disk-drive maker Seagate Technology and hold talks with Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew and Foreign Minister S. Jayakumar later Tuesday.

Seagate is the largest foreign employer in Singapore and the world's largest disk-drive maker.

Ms. Albright's visit here followed her participation in a dialogue this week in Kuala Lumpur between the ASEAN grouping and its international partners.

The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) comprises Brunei, Burma, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

## Albright arrives in Singapore

SINGAPORE (AFP) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright arrived in Singapore on her first visit Tuesday aimed at strengthening bilateral ties with Singapore, a strong supporter of the U.S. military presence in Asia.

Ms. Albright was greeted on arrival at Singapore's Changi Airport by Singapore's ambassador in the United States, Chan Heng Chee, and U.S. ambassador here Timothy Chortba.

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"Secretary Albright's visit will serve to further deepen the strong ties enjoyed by the two countries," a statement by the Singapore Foreign Ministry said Monday.

"The close relationship in economic, trade and investment is reinforced by cooperation on defence and security issues as well as on political issues at the regional and international level," the statement added.

Singapore is one of the staunchest supporters of a continued U.S. military presence in Asia, arguing it is essential to maintain regional peace and stability.

The United States is one of the biggest markets for Singapore's exports and the biggest investor in the tiny city-state of three million people.

## Blair sees hopeful signs in N. Ireland

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Tony Blair said there were signs that Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, was serious about seeking a negotiated solution to the troubles in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Blair expressed cautious optimism about the peace process in an interview published Tuesday in the Mirror newspaper following a new Irish Republican Army (IRA) ceasefire announced this month.

"...That (the ceasefire) at least is proof that there is some serious intent and desire by Sinn Fein to pursue the democratic path," he said.

Mr. Blair also praised the key pro-British Northern Ireland Protestant leader, David Trimble, for continuing to take part in talks.

## U.K. tightens curbs on arms exports

LONDON (R) — Britain's new Labour government Monday fulfilled its election promise to ban arms sales to countries with poor human rights records that might use them for internal repression.

Britain, one of the world's leading defence exporters, will also turn down licence applications if there is a clear risk that the arms will be used aggressively against another country. Foreign Secretary Robin Cook told parliament.

But he disappointed arms campaigners by refusing to withdraw more than 21,000 existing defence licences, including one for the controversial sale of 16 British Aerospace (BAE) Hawk jets and armoured vehicles to Indonesia.

Human rights activists, who contend that the jets have been used against opponents in the breakaway East Timor region, said they would protest against the government's decision Tuesday outside Prime Minister Tony Blair's 10 Downing Street residence.

"Whilst we welcome steps towards strengthening arms sales criteria, we are extremely disappointed that the Labour government will not revoke any existing licences," Will McMahon of the Campaign Against Arms Trade said.

"The people of East Timor and the democratic movements of Indonesia have a right to expect more firm action from a government committed to an ethical foreign policy," Mr. McMahon said in a statement after meeting Mr. Cook.



# World News

Jordan Times, Wednesday, July 30, 1997

5



Waving flags and banners, some 10,000 young people from around the world gather near Havana University for the opening of a nine-day International Youth Festival. President Fidel Castro presided over the ceremony to kick off the meeting. The last such festival was held in 1989 in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang before the fall of communism in the old East Bloc (Reuters photo)

## Defiant Americans flock to Cuban youth festival

HAVANA (AFP) — A defiant U.S. delegation was the biggest at the International Youth Festival that opened in Cuba Monday, an organizer said, though Washington denied U.S. nationals licenses to take part.

Cuban organizer Rogelio Polanco told reporters 761 U.S. nationals were taking part in the World Festival of Youth and Students, a weeklong international event that rocked and rolled under way to the tune of Guantanamo as grey-bearded President Fidel Castro, 70, looked over the crowd of thousands of youths in T-shirts and red baseball caps.

"It's a meaningful sign that American young people do not identify with the official U.S. policy of aggression, isolation and hostility" towards Cuba, Mr. Polanco said.

Cuban media only last week reported that no U.S. nationals would attend because the U.S. government would not allow it.

The United States has a 35-year-old economic embargo clamped on Cuba

to try to undermine Mr. Castro's Communist rule.

Among the embargo's terms is a ban on U.S. nationals spending money in Cuba, an effective travel ban, except for journalists, academics and those visiting family who get a Treasury Department green-light.

The department is in charge of enforcing U.S. economic sanctions on foreign countries.

U.S. citizens who travel to Cuba without legal authorization face maximum civil fines of \$50,000 each, and a government investigation.

Most U.S. nationals who go to Cuba without authorization and without publicity escape the penalties.

In this case, treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) received applications for licensing of about 50 students, a spokeswoman in Washington said.

OFAC denied the licenses in a May 30 letter, she said, and reaffirmed that denial last Thursday, putting the U.S. students on notice they could feel the full bite of penalties for violating the trading with the enemy act

on their return home.

The youthfest is held every few years usually in Communist-ruled countries, and Mr. Polanco said 8,252 delegates from 117 countries had arrived for the event — a figure he said could top 10,000.

Mr. Castro stood watch over the opening-night festivities, which hailed Palestinian and Western Sahara delegations and featured a music and theatre show on the long stone staircase entrance to the University of Havana, site of landmark student protests in the 1920's and 1950's.

The Mexican delegation brandished banners in support of the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) which rose up demanding better social and economic conditions in Chiapas state, and democratic reform nationwide.

Some students waved a portrait of Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, and others waved one of the late Socialist Chilean President Salvador Allende.

Participants were to discuss political and cultural issues throughout the festi-

val dedicated to the memory of Che Guevara, whose remains were returned to Cuba just days ago, 30 years after he was killed by the Bolivian military.

Mr. Polanco said five charters winged in the Americas, from Nassau, the Bahamas, and from Cancun, Mexico, despite the Treasury Department's moves.

Would-be participants from California argued earlier that the U.S. government issued licences every year to those students taking part in the same event, including in Havana in 1978, and in North Korea in 1989.

Up-in-arms Minnesota students took their protest over the licensing issue to the steps of their state capital in Saint Paul on July 8.

And the U.S. students' bid to attend the conference grabbed the attention of the American Civil Liberties Union, which backed them and in the past has sued the government to try to end U.S. travel restrictions to Cuba.

The youth festival stretches through Aug. 5.

## Taleban stop opposition advances north of Kabul

KABUL (AFP) — After a week of military setbacks, Afghanistan's Taleban movement has stopped opposition advances north of the capital Kabul, an AFP correspondent saw Tuesday.

Reflecting a growing confidence within the ranks of the hardline Muslim militia, foreign journalists were allowed to the frontlines north of the capital for the first time in ten days of heavy fighting.

The front, close to the village of Hossein Kot, 20 kilometres north of the city limits, was in stalemate Tuesday, with both sides apparently unwilling to spare enough men to break a three-day old deadlock.

Little in the way of infantry fighting was in progress Tuesday. But Taleban gunners on a parallel road northeast of the capital — where militia positions outflank enemy positions on the main highway — continued to be active.

Taleban fighters close to the frontlines claimed they had gained key hilltops overlooking enemy forces during overnight operations, enabling them to prevent further opposition advances.

"We captured some hilltops overlooking the main supply road, so it is difficult for the opposition to supply their troops at the front," Taleban fighter Haji Mohammad told reporters.

No independent confirmation of their claims about the hilltops were immediately available.

Ten days ago, former government Commander Ahmad Shah Masood launched a surprise infantry assault which saw the Taleban militia pushed back some 45 kilometres from their northern positions towards Kabul, where they have now regrouped on both the old road, and the parallel-running new road.

It came as a major setback for the Islamic militia, who took Kabul ten months ago, and had advanced as far north as Mazar-i-Sharif. Mr. Masood's rear headquarters.

The Taleban fighter said the gains Tuesday were a "first step" to pushing back Mr. Masood's forces, but added the militia were in no rush to launch a full scale battle to regain lost ground.

"Our artillery and rockets overlook Masood fighters, so if they stay there we can keep hitting them," the fighter asserted.

Sources on the other side of the frontlines reported that ex-government fighters — ousted from Kabul by the Taleban last September — are still hampered by blocked supply routes.

"We still haven't got the Salang Highway open to traffic, so getting enough fuel in is a problem," an opposition source conceded.

Anti-Taleban fighters earlier this year blew up part of the Salang Highway — the key road link that traverses the snowy Hindu Kush Mountains — to prevent a Taleban advance according to travellers, repair work is in progress on a blown bridge on the highway, which is only passable to pedestrian traffic.

Other member factions of the opposition alliance —

including northern ethnic-Uzbek warlord General Abdul Malik and a Shiite Muslim faction — have also yet to join an all-out attack on the capital.

Reports reaching here from the Taleban frontlines against the Shiite Hezb-e-Wahdat faction say the lines are "positively heating up" but without any major changes in the rival positions.

Meanwhile a spokesman for the opposition said Tuesday the Afghan alliance threatening to take Kabul has lost patience with peace efforts and plans a final attack on the capital within days.

The spokesman also dismissed as "wishful thinking" reports by Afghanistan's Taleban administration in Kabul of splits in the alliance of northern Afghan Uzbeks, Tajiks and Hazaras.

The Taleban are an alliance of southern Afghanistan's Pashtuns, the majority group in the country.

Here in this dusty northern Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif, rear headquarters of the so-called northern alliance, there is none of the tension and fear that grip Kabul, which for the past week has come under rocket and air attack from approaching alliance forces.

Trucks laden with melons, the only luxury at this time of the year when temperatures soar to 45 degrees Celsius (113 Fahrenheit), disgorge their cargoes at street markets which seem full of goods.

Alliance warplanes as well as transport aircraft regularly take off from the airfield. Helicopters also fly to the war's frontline.

There are few signs of excessive security except at key military installations. There are no patrols on city streets, unlike in Kabul where there have been reports of roundups of opponents of the Taleban and forced drafting of young men into military service.

"There is a real mood of confidence and optimism about what is going to happen in the battle for Kabul," a foreign aid worker said in Mazar-i-Sharif.

The alliance spokesman, a former Afghan Foreign Ministry official who identified himself only as chief protocol officer Zia, said the group's forces were within 13 kilometres of the outskirts of Kabul and had the capital in a stranglehold.

He said the only reason a final push had not yet started was that rear supply lines were being secured.

"The final battle will start within days," Mr. Zia told a small group of foreign reporters.

Asked if there was a chance of a last-ditch peace effort to avoid a bloody street battle for Kabul, Mr. Zia replied: "What would be the point? We are ready for negotiations but each time conditions are put on starting them. We have run out of patience."

He said diplomatic initiatives by Pakistan, Iran and the United Nations were at an end and had nowhere to go.

"We have no word of anyone coming here in the near future so we will end this stalemate ourselves," Mr. Zia said. "We will take Kabul."

## Blair gives wholehearted backing to Diana

LONDON (R) — Britain's new Prime Minister Tony Blair has given his wholehearted support to Princess Diana's charity work around the world and said it should continue.

Mr. Blair said in a newspaper interview he was a firm supporter of the monarchy and insisted he had never given his opinion on whether Prince Charles should marry his lover Camilla Parker Bowles.

Since her divorce from the heir to the throne, Princess Diana has sought to carve herself a role as a "queen of hearts" roving ambassador supporting good causes that range from AIDS charities to a campaign to eradicate landmines.

Brushing aside any criticism of her role, Mr. Blair told the Mirror in the interview in Tuesday's edition: "I think it is very important Princess Diana is allowed to carry on the work that she is doing."

"She earns a lot of respect and admiration from people all around the world. I am very happy for that to continue," he added.

The popularity of Britain's 1,000-year-old monarchy has plunged with the marriage woes of Queen Elizabeth's children losing the House of Windsor much respect and affection at home.

Mr. Blair said: "I think the rest of the world sometimes wonders why they get pulled to pieces so much over here."

"It is not very constructive. It's important that we recognise they are human beings as well as people who occupy positions in the public eye."

Mr. Blair was careful to be even-handed in his praise for both Prince Charles and Princess Diana.

"She has done an immense amount for the cause she supports, as has the Prince of Wales (Prince Charles), and we should be proud of the work that they do on our behalf."

## Bangladesh's main nuclear reactor shut down after water tank leakage

DHAKA (AFP) — Bangladesh's main nuclear reactor has been shut down after one of the waste water cooling tanks leaked in the first such accident here, newspapers reported Tuesday quoting a senior official.

"The reactor was shut down as a safety measure," Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) Chairman M.A. Qayum told local dailies.

He told the Independent newspaper they had measured the radioactivity of the water at the cooling tank and the level is much below that prescribed by the International Commission for Nuclear Protection.

"Leaking water was not being allowed to seep to the ground ... the leakage does not pose any serious danger," he added.

No further details were

immediately available and Mr. Qayum could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

The newspapers said radioactive water was leaking at a rate of 0.3 gallons (1.14 litres) per minute. The tank has a capacity of 8,600 gallons (32,680 litres). The reactor started operation in 1986 in nearby Savar district.

The reactor was made for training and research on nuclear energy and the production of radio isotopes which are needed for therapeutic and industrial purposes.

An AEC official said the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has been informed about the accident and an enquiry committee has been set up to investigate the incident.

The situation was under control and all safety measures have been taken immediately after the leak was detected on July 17 to avoid any hazards to the staff or people living in nearby villages, he said.

The Triga Mark II reactor, installed by the General Atomic Co. of the United States, has a built-in safety and protection system.

Bangladesh National Nuclear Safety and Radiation Control Committee chief M.A. Wajed said he was closely monitoring the leakage and maintaining contact with foreign experts.

Mr. Wajed, a leading scientist and the husband of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed, said foreign experts could be asked to assist in fixing the problem if local scientists required their help.

## Miami witness says Cali cocaine cartel took his wife

MIAMI (R) — A former accountant for the Cali cocaine cartel said Monday he agreed to work for the United States because he wanted to protect his two sons following his wife's kidnapping by the cartel.

"I was in a very bad state of nerves when I realised that my wife, Patricia, the mother of my children, had not appeared again," Guillermo Pallomari said after recounting how his wife vanished in 1994, as he was meeting with U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) officials.

He said he was told by a cartel member that his wife was kidnapped because he had become a traitor to the group.

"After begging him to return my wife to me... he told me that these were the consequences of having ignored the order of Mr. Miguel Rodriguez," he said in a sixth day of testimony.

Mr. Pallomari was referring to Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela, who headed the infamous Colombian drug gang with his brother Gilberto. Mr. Pallomari, a Chilean

national, is the star witness in the U.S. case against two American lawyers, one of them a former Justice Department official, and four accused south Florida smugglers on charges of obstructing justice and drug trafficking.

Mr. Pallomari, who is currently imprisoned, agreed in October 1995 to plead guilty to racketeering conspiracy and money laundering charges and to testify in the case.

As cross-examination began, the defence tried to show that Mr. Pallomari was a desperate man who agreed to say whatever the United States wanted him to say.

John Bergendahl, defence attorney for one of the alleged traffickers, questioned Mr. Pallomari closely about differences in statements he had made in the past.

Earlier in his testimony, Mr. Pallomari said the cartel had agents infiltrated throughout the Colombian government. Last week, he also testified that the cartel had funnelled at least \$5 million into President

Ernesto Samper's campaign.

Mr. Pallomari's testimony marked the first time a witness for the U.S. government has alleged that the Samper campaign and other Colombian politicians took bribes to pass laws that favoured drug traffickers.

Mr. Samper dismissed Mr. Pallomari's allegations as "grotesquely false." He said last week that the only agreement he ever struck with the Cali cartel was to put its bosses behind bars and shoot those who tried to escape.

The trial in Miami came after a four-year U.S. probe of the cartel.

On trial are Michael Abbell, who was chief of the U.S. Justice Department's Office of International Affairs during the Reagan administration, William Moran, a criminal defence attorney and former prosecutor, and four men U.S. officials charge helped warehouse and ship drugs — Luis Grajales, Eddie Martinez, Ramon Martinez and Jose Herrera Solas.

## Kohl in Oderbruch as flood rescue workers plug gaps

BAD FREIENWALDE, Germany (AFP) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl flew Tuesday to the flood-threatened farmlands of eastern Germany to judge for himself the battle to contain the dangerously swollen Oder River.

Breaking a holiday in Austria for his second visit to the region since the crisis began two weeks ago, he said he had come to support the region.

He was updated on the crisis by a committee set up by Brandenburg state authorities to deal with the situation, and was due later to visit several villages threatened by flooding.

Bad Freienwalde lies in the north of the Oderbruch, a chunk of sparsely populated farmland lying largely below the Oder's normal level and at most risk if the river breaches defence barriers along its northerly route.

His arrival came as emergency services and volunteers battled to plug gaps in

dykes preventing the Oder River from swamping the Oderbruch, and authorities warned of a new surge in floodwater levels.

Overnight, 400 soldiers were scrambled to stem water pouring through a seven-metre breach in a section of Dyke near Hohenwutzen, and some 1,500 people were warned to prepare for evacuation.

Hohenwutzen lies at the north end of the Oderbruch, which risks turning into a huge lake if the flood defence barriers are breached.

The troops packed 200,000 sandbags to stem the breach, and authorities said the opening was later sealed.

"We have things in that area under control," said a spokesman for the crisis committee set up by Brandenburg state authorities to deal with the crisis, but warned that the situation "is still tense."

Further north, water levels at the village of Hohensaatzen had risen 29 centimetres

from a day earlier to reach 7.17 metres early Tuesday.

After two weeks of struggling to contain the floodwaters, the Dykes are so sodden that authorities fear they may not hold on much longer.

The floods, which have claimed more than 100 lives in devastated parts of Poland and the Czech Republic, are the worst to hit Central Europe in living memory.

Faced with Germany's biggest natural disaster since reunification, Mr. Kohl said it was important not only "to talk, but also to show that we are one people."

The damage would be "considerable," he said, calling for better ways of predicting future flood levels and fast, bureaucracy-free government aid.

Mr. Kohl hailed the work of the army and other rescue workers and the spirit of solidarity shown by the rest of the country.

"It is more important for me to be here than on holi-

day," he added. The chancellor also visited Frankfurt An Der Oder, south of here, a week ago.

Authorities, meanwhile, warned of a new rise in the flood waters expected later Tuesday.

They fear water levels could rise up to 10 centimetres as the surge comes downstream and hits Ratzdorf, the first German town on the Oder on the confluence with the Neisse River.

However, Brandenburg's Environment Minister Matthias Platzeck told Info Radio that the situation could ease in the next week as flood barriers in Poland burst and water spread out.

"We must hang on for another four, five or six days, which will be hard enough, but after that, there's hope for the first time," he added.

In Frankfurt An Der Oder, the main town on the river border with Poland, the water level dropped further to 6.43 metres. On Sunday, it had reached a record 6.57 metres.



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## Knocking the door of ijtihad

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's speech to the recent Al al Bait conference challenged the Islamic World to articulate more clearly on Islam's socio-economic perceptions in a manner that may address the contemporary woes facing the Islamic nations. This timely call for a coherent and precise Islamic guidelines on how best to rectify socio-economic problems is all the more pressing in view of the fact that Islam plays a pivotal role in the shaping of Arab societies and continues to inspire legislations in practically all walks of life.

Islam happens to be a progressive religion that can accommodate current human needs. All that is needed is to amplify the advanced ideas of Islam in an evolutionary manner in order to cope with existing and future challenges facing the Arab and Muslim worlds.

Few efforts have been made so far to translate the Islamic socio-economic precepts into operational programmes of action for our peoples to follow and implement. Islam has economic principles that draw a line between public domain and private property and calls for a social security net to meet the needs of the unemployed and handicapped. The antitrust laws which oppose the creation of monopolies and exist in practically all the industrial countries have been duly reflected in the Muslim faith in a clear manifestation of the religion's operational ideas on economic development and planning. Even the issue of usury has been adequately dealt with albeit there is yet no consensus on the full and true implications of the sanctions against it per se. While private enterprise has been endorsed and promoted by Islam, the religion did not neglect social security.

His Majesty's call on the Islamic World to appraise the economic theory in the religion is therefore a very compelling message. What we need now is to reopen the door of ijtihad as the religion actually calls for and try to formulate operational principles which may govern economic planning and development in the Islamic nations. This mission needs to be undertaken in an institutional way. This task can be attained by convening a special conference whose mandate would be the translation of Islamic precepts on economics into modern guidelines.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Bustour expressed sadness over reports that a single Jewish millionaire, Irving Moskowitz, has been able to finance the purchase of hundreds of dunums of lands in Palestine and offered to build a new Jewish settlement on Palestinian lands while the numerous wealthy Arabs shy away from financing development projects to help the Palestinians improve their living conditions. Nabil Sharif said that a single American Jew has expressed readiness to finance Jewish settlement programmes in order to help the Zionists to hold on to the occupied Arab territories but in the Arab World, which abounds with wealthy people, no such endeavour for saving Palestine is being contemplated except among the very few who still feel attached to the holy land. Most of the wealthy Arabs are only concerned with satisfying their own desires and prefer to seek pleasure in the nightclubs of the Western countries while a small portion of their wealth could help rebuild many poor districts and underprivileged areas of Palestine, charged the writer. He said if the Zionists can use their wealth to consolidate their control of the Palestinian territories, the wealthy and the rich in the Arab World can, through their funds, help the Palestinians resist occupation and protect their ancestors' land in Palestine.

A WRITER for Al Arab Al Yawm attacked the Ministry of Education for failing to provide a good level of education to Jordanian students, with the result that the majority have failed the tawjihi examinations this year. Mohammad Subaiti accused the ministry of establishing a "massacre" by seeking, on purpose, to ensure the success of only a limited number of students, just enough for universities this year, and causing the failure of tens of thousands, sending them out into the streets at a loss over their future. By doing so, the ministry has projected Jordanian students as being less intelligent than their counterparts in Syria, Egypt, or even Somalia, he added. The failure of the majority of students to pass their exams, he said, can either mean that the ministry's educational system is a total failure or that it has deliberately caused the students, including those among the very best in private and government schools, to fail. He said that the results have openly reflected an admission by the minister of education of the total failure of his own ministry and not of the Jordanian students.

## Washington Watch

# Congress fighting U.S. Mideast peace efforts

By Dr. James J. Zogby

AS THE Clinton administration struggles to develop new initiatives to restore trust and confidence in the peace process, recent actions by the U.S. Congress have not contributed either to building that trust or to projecting and protecting the role of the U.S. as an even-handed, honest broker.

For a Congress that advocates frugality in its attitude toward foreign aid and protectiveness in its concern for U.S. economic interests, many of these congressional actions are confounding and counterintuitive.

Taken individually, each of these initiatives displays a lack of balance. Collectively, they are shockingly excessive and gratuitous. Worse still, many of these recent congressional efforts, if implemented, can have the effect of sabotaging the search for peace in the Middle East. To its credit, the administration has opposed and fought against most of these congressional actions and has pledged to block their implementation. Nevertheless, it is important to understand the extent to which Congress can play a negative role by pressing and boxing the administration into a political corner.

During the next few weeks I will review some of these various congressional initiatives and then complete this series with an analysis of how and why Congress is behaving as it is.

This week's column is dedicated to examining congressional resolutions that directly impede the peace process.

### Actions affecting Jerusalem

Historically, successive U.S. administrations have refused to recognise Israel's claim to have Jerusalem as its exclusive capital. They have also refused to accept the Palestinian claim to a capital in East Jerusalem. After Israelis and Palestinians signed a peace agreement, the Clinton administration became more adamant on the position that no outside party can take any action that might prejudice the outcome of final status talks and impede the search for peace.

Recent actions taken by Congress, however, not only press the administration to violate the essence of the Israeli-Palestinian accord, but by unilaterally accepting the Israeli claim to exclusive control over Jerusalem, they are also designed to put U.S. diplomacy into a corner in order to force the issue.

With the House Concurrent Resolution relating to the 30th Anniversary of the Reunification of the City of Jerusalem (H.CON. 60), Congress, once again, presses the administration to accept the Israeli claim to

Jerusalem. The resolution's operative language reads:

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), that the Congress

1. call upon the president and the secretary of state to affirm publicly as a matter of United States policy that Jerusalem must remain the undivided capital of the state of Israel; and

2. urge United States officials to refrain from any actions that contradict this policy.

Congressional amendments to the Foreign Relations Authorization Act (H.R. 1757), which includes the State Department Authorization, are even more egregious in that they prescribe specific U.S. actions to enforce the Israeli claim. Section 1709 of the Bill authorises the appropriation of \$25 million for fiscal year 1998 and \$75 million for fiscal year 1999 "for the construction of a United States Embassy in Jerusalem, Israel."

The bill goes on to press the administration to furtherance of Israel's claim, noting that:

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this division may be available for the publication of any official government document which lists countries and their capital cities unless the publication identifies Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Going even further to enforce the Israeli claim to Jerusalem and to deny any legitimacy to the Palestinian claim to the city is a section in the Foreign Operations FY98 Appropriations Bill (H.R. 2159) which micro-manages the conduct of U.S. diplomats in a series of bizarre instructions. The bill mandates that:

None of U.S. funds provided "may be obligated or expended to create in any part of Jerusalem a new office or any department, or agency of U.S. government for the purpose of considering official U.S. government business with the Palestinian National Authority."

Meetings, on these issues, between U.S. officers and employees and Palestinians "should continue to take place in locations other than Jerusalem."

The bill, however, affords an exception allowing U.S. officers and employees to meet in Jerusalem with Palestinians on the other subjects, "have social contact and have incidental discussions."

While the above restrictions on diplomatic contact in Jerusalem have the effect of law and are, therefore, forced on U.S. officials whose ability to operate in Jerusalem is severely constrained, the Clinton administration has correctly

refused to endorse the congressionally mandated recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, stating that "it is unwise for the United States to take actions that could be interpreted as prejudicing sensitive matters, such as Jerusalem, that the parties themselves have agreed should be decided in final status talks."

The administration knows that any move by the U.S. to recognise the Israeli claim prior to the completion of the peace process would:

— sabotage the peace process;  
— destroy the credibility of the U.S. as a negotiator; and  
— damage U.S. standing throughout the Arab and Muslim World.

### Sanctions against Syria

In April of last year, the president signed the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, which included a provision allowing for sanctions against governments accused of supporting terrorism. Responding to administration concerns, the bill contained provisions authorising the Department of the Treasury, in consultation with the State Department, to issue regulations allowing for some exceptions to the prohibitions.

In order to sustain Syrian engagement in the peace process and recognising the key role that Syria played in the coalition effort to liberate Kuwait, the administration has used the flexibility provided in the act to permit U.S. engagement and private investment in Syria.

H.R. 748, which recently passed in the House, removes Executive Branch flexibility and thereby mandates complete sanctions against Syria. A companion resolution is on the Senate calendar. Language that will have similar implications also appears in the Senate passed version of H.R. 1757 (S.903) — The Foreign Relations Authorization Act. If the administration does not convince the Congress to ease its stance and the sanctions are implemented against Syria, the Syrian-Israeli track in the peace process and U.S. diplomacy in the broader Middle East will be seriously impaired.

### Anti-Arab boycott efforts

Supporters of Israel have long engaged in pressuring politicians to take steps against the Arab boycott of Israel. As a result, they have succeeded in having the U.S. take Israel's side in this matter. There is now a U.S. law which prohibits U.S. firms from honouring the boycott and there are several penalties imposed on violators. But Congress is now push-

ing harder to pressure Arab states by both accelerating their anti-boycott campaign and by seeking to tie U.S. arms sales to ending the boycott.

In a "Sense of the Congress" amendment to the Foreign Operations bill, the Senate spells out its policy that: "The Arab League countries should immediately and publicly renounce the primary boycott of Israel and the secondary and tertiary boycott of American firms that have commercial ties with Israel." The amendment goes on to urge the president to "take into consideration the participation of any recipient country in the primary boycott of Israel... when determining whether to sell weapons to said country." And more ominously threatens to "encourage the allies and trading partners of the United States to enact laws prohibiting business from complying with the boycott and penalising businesses that do comply."

While this amendment is a "Sense of the Congress" and, therefore, is not binding on the administration, it shows how far this Congress will go to jeopardise U.S.-Arab relations in order to pass pro-Israel legislation.

### The Middle East Peace Facilitation Act

Immediately following the Sept. 13, 1993, signing on the White House lawn, members of Congress promised to reconsider the status of the anti-Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) legislation they passed during the 1980s.

Instead of rescinding this anti-Palestinian legislation, Congress passed MEPPA, which gives the president the authority to provisionally suspend the law restricting U.S. contact with the PLO thereby allowing for U.S. diplomatic relations and foreign aid to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). MEPPA places a series of requirements on the PNA as prerequisites to continued U.S. contact and aid.

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) report on MEPPA notes that "there is no comparable section of U.S. law where Israeli commitments and compliance are monitored."

The "requirements" mandated by Congress and currently in place include that the PNA:

1. renounce the Arab boycott of Israel and work to end it;  
2. refrain from making statements that question Israel's right to exist or urge armed conflict against Israel;  
3. disavow and nullify the PLO covenant;  
4. establish a Palestinian police force and a judicial

system for apprehending terrorists and transferring them to Israel;

5. insure the absence of terrorists in their ranks;

6. stop any financial or training assistance to any terrorists;

7. cooperate with the Israelis in preempting terrorism, apprehending terrorists and transferring captured terrorists to Israel;

8. disarm unlicensed citizens;

9. not open any offices in Jerusalem;

10. provide information about any U.S. citizens previously held hostage by the Palestinians;

11. take no steps to change the status of Jerusalem, West Bank or Gaza Strip pending the outcome of permanent status negotiations.

These limitations are blatantly one-sided and clearly excessive. This is even more the case since there is not a mechanism in place tying Israel's billions of dollars of aid to its non-compliance with agreements.

Just as the Israelis complain that the Palestinians are not always complying with the terms of the agreements, the Palestinians have submitted to Congress 34 specific areas where the Israelis are in violation of their agreements with the Palestinians.

But Congress, which insists that U.S. aid must be tied to compliance, will not act on Israel's behaviour.

Congress' message to the Palestinians is clear: "Your compliance is required and we will enforce it. Israeli compliance, or the lack thereof, is not our concern."

As a result, Congress subverts the negotiating process by inserting itself as the enforcer of the peace agreements for only one side, and the role of the U.S. as an honest broker is placed in jeopardy and U.S. credibility is threatened.

While some in Congress now seek to further encumber MEPPA by imposing more severe requirements on the Palestinians, others argue that it should be allowed to expire.

The consequences of not renewing MEPPA are dangerous:

— contact with the PLO would become illegal;  
— the Palestinian office in Washington would be forced to close; and  
— all diplomatic ties between the U.S. and Palestinian National Authority would cease.

In all four instances noted above, the consequences of congressional meddling can be devastating to both the search for peace and to U.S. interests and diplomacy in the Middle East. The administration knows this and therefore is attempting to confront these legislative efforts.

## Olympics revisited

By Ali Kassay

THOUSANDS OF years ago, ancient Greeks decided to celebrate the Olympic games, so they laid down their arms, and invited all their enemies to do the same. When this was done, according to Dave Barry's book "Stay fit until you die", the Greeks snatched up their arms and backed their enemies to bits.

This probably explains why the Olympic games came to have the slogan: "Competition without conflict." You see, the games were probably initially devised as a method of ensuring that no enemies were left with whom to have a conflict.

When this objective was achieved, the defense budget was dropped, which peeved the military of ancient Greece; the arms industry started laying off workers, who were all equally upset, and the arms lobby started complaining about loss of exports, which upset all economic planners.

But the games saved the day. They created new enemies, which ensured that funds were found to finance research, development and procurement of new forms of tips for spears that were more efficient at doing the other fellow a spot of no good, and everyone lived happily ever after. That is, everyone who lived was happy with the Olympic games.

All of this, of course, happened many years ago. It is therefore refreshing to see that the Olympic games as we know them in the twentieth century have kept up all the noble traditions of their forefathers.

Take, for instance, the Pan-Arab Games that have just concluded and which were intended to embody the deep bonds of affection and fraternity that exist between every Arab and his fellow Arab. Every day, many brother Arab newspapers came up with allusions casting doubt on the competence and integrity of the referees. Venom was lavished with generous pens upon the umpires whenever the defeated athlete belonged to the same country as the newspaper or, alternatively, when the loser belonged to a brother Arab country that was viewed with more affection by the journalist than the brother Arab country of the winner.

Eventually, spectators decided that the pen, though mightier than the sword, is not mighty enough to give justice to their feelings and they proceeded to smash up the stadium that had cost so much aid money to build. Naturally, their objective was to attract even more aid money to Lebanon, this time to finance repair work, and to ensure more jobs for our brother Lebanese construction workers.

Nor was the tradition of fomenting discord the only one that the Games have preserved. When the news came out that the Jordanian soccer team had won the gold medal, enough ammunition was fired in the skies of Amman to light a skirmish of non-negligible proportions. Others, unarmed, expressed their joy by dangling from the windows of moving cars, and others yet were seen standing or sitting on top of assorted motor vehicles. The Jordanian expression of euphoria not only kept up the ancient Greek traditions of supporting the arms industry, but also the medical services.

As usual, there is no acknowledgement of the casualty toll, and since no foreign news agency decided to take up the issue, no one else will. The matter is left entirely to the speculation of gossip-mongers whose estimates of the dead and injured vary. Still, as an observer commented on that memorable evening: It is nice to see people happy. They have not felt this way for a long time.

## The world will not be able to keep its hands off the Internet

By Eli M. Noam

CARMEL, New York — There have been heady days in Washington for that marvellous medium, the Internet.

First, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a restriction on indecent content, overturning a law passed virtually unanimously by Congress.

The Clinton administration had strongly supported those restrictions. But less than a week after the justices ruled, a White House group issued an equally vigorous opinion that advocated a largely hands-off policy by government regarding business conducted on the Internet.

Is there any consistency here? In a way, yes. Both administration positions play to the gallery. And just as the defence of regulated morality on the Internet, though popular, proved to be a failure, so will the call for unregulated Internet commerce fail.

This is not because of middle-class bureaucrats, but because the Internet will become too successful to be treated differently from the rest of society and the rest of the economy. Since the Internet has moved from techie preserve to office park, shopping mall and entertainment arcade, it is sheer fantasy to expect that it will be left a libertarian island in a world full of jealous competitors and conflicting objectives.

The Internet is not the only priority in any country. The United States, for example, has long worried about crime, communism and children. That has led it to seek regulatory rules on pornography and encryption, and the wiring of schools for the Internet.

Similarly, Bavaria cares about hate speech and public morality, and sets rules accordingly. For the French, language and culture are the priorities, and Internet services originating in the country must be

in French. Singapore worries about order. And so on. Americans may disagree with these concerns, but don't they have their own? Most of the White House paper tells state and foreign governments, not Washington, to mend their ways.

For all the rhetoric of an Internet "free trade zone," will the United States readily accept an Internet that includes Thai child pornography, Albanian tele-doctors, Cayman Island tax dodges, Monaco gambling, Nigerian stock schemes, Cuban mail-order catalogues? Or, for that matter, American violators of privacy, purveyors of junk e-mail or "self-regulating" price-fixers? Unlikely. And other countries will feel the same on matters they care about.

Thus, for better or worse, each society will apply its accumulated wisdom, misconceptions, preferences and interest group muscle to the rules governing transactions over the Internet. And these rules will not be very different from those applied to the rest of society.

It is easy to engage in generalised anti-government rhetoric but hard to remain consistent. The Internet industry too has been selective in its libertarianism.

It liked subsidies from the Pentagon and National Science Foundation that created the Internet in the first place, and the foundation money that is helping to develop the next-generation Internet II. It fought for regulated cheap access to phone networks. It supports subsidies for school and library Internet access. It exhorts the federal government to carry a big stick internationally to protect its software against pirates.

Most of this makes sense, but it is not exactly the free market.

Internet enthusiasts have a fallback hope: "You cannot regulate the Internet." The idea is that clever youngsters can always find a way to run electronic circles around any restriction, so why even try to

regulate? The fallacy is to focus on the electronic bits, which indeed are very hard to control.

Communications are a matter not just of signals but of people, institutions and physical hardware; the arm of the law can reach them. A government will go after static and physical elements if it cannot reach mobile or intangible ones.

For example, instead of taxing transactions over the Internet, which will prove difficult and inefficient, a government might tax the physical delivery. Instead of controlling information, it might mandate hardware to do so, like the V-chip in American television sets.

It seems that the new medium is like an inkblot test, an electronic blob into which all project their own fantasies, hopes and fears.

Traditionalists find the dark forces of degeneracy. Libertarians detect the heavy hand of government. Leftists discover the sharing community, devoid of the avarice of private business. Internationalists expect the global village.

This kind of dreaming is common for new technology, and it is usually wrong. The reality will be more mundane: The Internet will be enormously important, but it will not create a new regulatory system. It's nice to dream of it as a global force of liberation, but it may also have the unintended opposite effect, if more controls are levied on people and property instead of on transactions and information.

The White House, commendably, says all the right things. But if we watch what it does to its own sacred cows, not what it tells others to do, we should not expect a deregulatory revolution.

The writer is professor of finance and economics at the Columbia Business School. This article is reprinted from The New York Times.



# Men want our votes but not our voice, say women

By Robert Otani

**KISUMU, Kenya** — Parliament's defeat of a bill seeking to increase the number of women MPs has outraged women across Kenya.

Their anger is not simply over the squashing of the proposal, but the dismissive way in which it was rejected.

The session was unusually rowdy, with members heckling and shouting down an opposition MP, Kiraitu Murungi, and others voicing sympathy with Phoebe Asiyu's bill.

"It was as if they were specifically attacking Mr. Murungi when he stood up to support Mrs. Asiyu, for breaking ranks with the men," said Wanjiru Kabira, head of the Consultative Centre for Gender Equity and of a newly formed women's caucus.

"Frankly, I don't think most of the MPs even read the motion before it was brought to parliament," she added.

Nancy Baraza, who chairs the Kenyan chapter of the International Federation of Women Lawyers, said: "I never knew how undisciplined (Kenyan) parliamentarians could be."

She was one of more than 200 women who thronged the parliamentary gallery to show support for the bill's proposal that the government should set aside two seats for women in each of the eight provinces in the general election due before the end of this year.

It had also sought to make it mandatory for all parties to set aside a third of their parliamentary nominations for women.

Women make up less than 10 per cent of the 188-seat

parliament. Only one woman sits in the cabinet, Nyiva Mwendwa, minister of culture and social services.

Ms. Baraza said: "It seems as if most MPs did not really understand the issues. They preferred to trivialise matters in ways clearly meant to patronise women but retain the status quo."

One cabinet minister, John Koech, infuriated the women when he described the motion as premature and likened it to a seven-month fetus urging itself to be born.

Mary Okello, an educationist and banker, retorted: "Think of all the premature babies who've insisted on being born in their own time and who grew up to be brilliant human beings."

"All women want is the right to be fully involved in helping to solve this country's problems. They (the men) want our votes and not our voice."

Particularly galling to women was the assertion by an assistant minister in the president's office, Moody Awori, that women preferred to be led by men and therefore it would be wrong to force female leaders upon them. As the house roared in amused approval, Awori added: "Culturally, Kenyans are not ready for women leaders. You cannot legislate against culture."

After the debate, opposition firebrand Martha Karua pointed out that the proposals were similar to those implemented in many countries, "including neighbouring Tanzania and Uganda, as well as in Africa's newest democracies — Eritrea, South Africa, Namibia and Mozambique. These are all

countries in which women have forged ahead, especially on the economic front, once they integrated women into key policy-making positions."

A few MPs suggested that women should use their national numerical superiority to attain positions of power and leadership instead of pleading with parliament and the government to intercede for them.

But the bill's sponsor, Mrs. Asiyu, argued that this reasoning was flawed as there was more to gaining a parliamentary seat than just numbers.

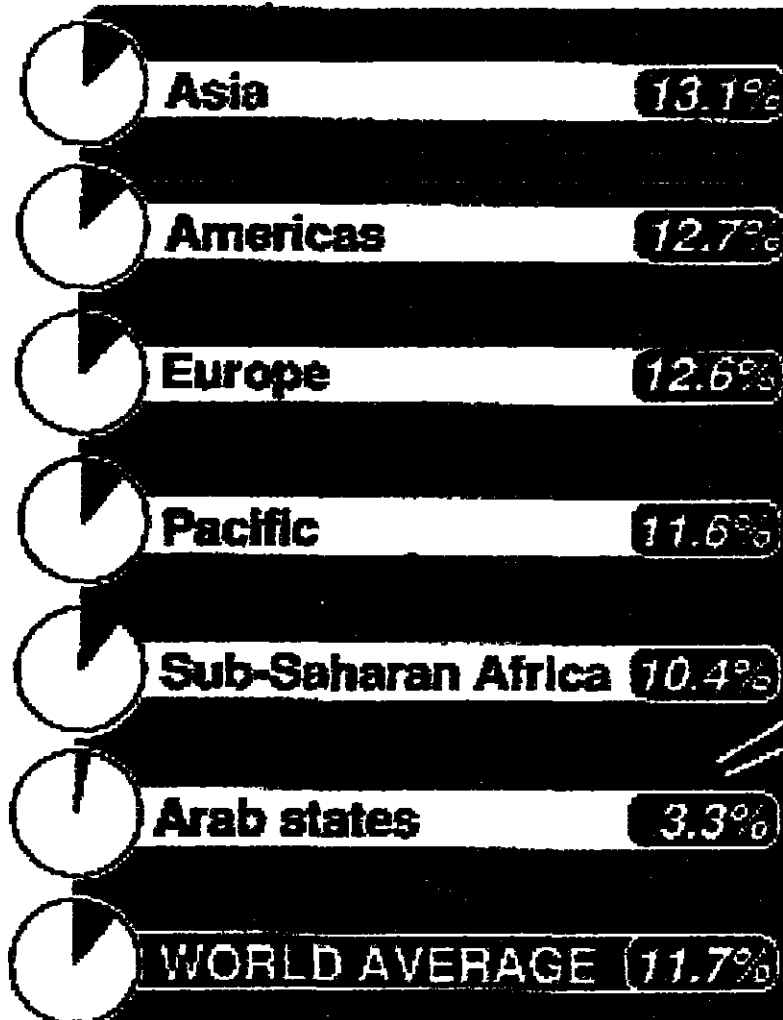
"Election campaigns are a very expensive affair in Kenya," she said. "Women do not have the economic strength to battle it out fairly with their male counterparts. Elections in Kenya are linked to one's economic standing."

Eddah Gachukia, executive director of the Forum for African Women Educationists, said: "It's a pity that most MPs don't support the motion since even President Daniel Arap Moi recently advocated affirmative action when he suggested that the post of chiefs (local administration leaders) be allocated to women."

Mr. Moi has repeatedly declared that he fully supports women's causes. He cites minister Mwendwa's recent appointment as an example of his commitment.

But Mr. Moi has also cast aspersions on the international women's conference which took place in China in 1995, calling it bechinali (Swahili for "low price"), maintaining that it was for women of low moral standing.

## Women in parliament



One of the lessons of the debate is that, despite men's promises of support, women cannot rely on their male colleagues to help them achieve their social, economic and political

goals. Their determination to keep up the pressure was displayed by the formation of the women's caucus immediately after the sitting.

Even before the motion had been tabled, a Democratic Party politician, Charity Kaluki Ngilu, pointed to the way ahead by declaring that she would stand for the presidency in the forthcoming

election. "It's a pity that parliament has failed to seize the opportunity to give more women the chance to lead," said Mrs. Asiyu. "That was a very harmless motion and,

even if (only) for the sake of public relations, KANU (the ruling party) and all the men should have supported it."

Gemini News Service

## Sahara refugees desperate to end 20-year exile

By Tracey Ober  
Reuters

**RABUNI, Algeria** — The sand is deep, white and fine, the kind coveted at seaside resorts. But in Algeria's Hamada desert it is just another hardship for the Western Sahara refugees.

Sand whirls around 12-year-old Farsa as she struggles to drag a plastic water jug to her tent and she squints against the glaring reflection of desert sun.

Farsa points to the western horizon and says she wants to go there, to her parents' homeland, where there is some green and ocean and enough food.

Her family, among the tens of thousands of refugees who fled the former Spanish colony as the Moroccans moved in, has lived in one of the world's most desolate and inhospitable spots for more than 20 years.

Housed in four sprawling camps based in Rabuni, in southwest Algeria, they have endured harsh conditions that have created a generation of malnourished, diseased and undereducated children.

Many of the refugees have stayed for one reason — their dream of an inde-

pendent homeland.

A visit to the camps last month by United Nations special envoy James Baker, sent to unblock the peace process in the region, reawakened the refugees' dormant hopes.

### Liberty, the most important thing

"I think not one of us has ever really lost the hope that one day we can return. If we lost that we would not be able to survive,"

Majeena, who left Western Sahara when she was five and grew up in the camps, told Reuters.

She now studies accounting at university in Geneva and her father lives in Moroccan-controlled Western Sahara, but she always comes back to the camps, the only home she's ever known.

"The most important thing for me is my liberty. Some Sahrawi live in occupied territory and have money and things we don't have, but I'd rather live here with my freedom," Majeena said.

Mr. Baker was met by near-hysteria in the Smara camp where almost the entire population of 40,000 turned out to greet him with women ululating, children

cheering, older men holding banners, soldiers at attention and even a small military band.

"Mr. Baker, please, please help us, we want our independence," shouted 27-year-old Sultana in perfect English.

A security guard for the former U.S. secretary of state said he had never seen such pandemonium.

But some of the refugees, having been disappointed many times before, passed beyond the niceties of protocol.

"That man Baker has to understand us. We hope he will be fair. We have sacrificed a lot, our friends, sons, and we want to have independence," Embarka Khalil, 60 and living in a dingy tent with few personal touches, told Reuters before his visit.

Her husband was killed in the 15-year war Polisario, the Sahrawi independence movement, fought against Morocco and her son is a prisoner of war in Morocco. "This is all I have. I may never see my home again," she said as tears filled her eyes.

She and many of the estimated 170,000 refugees see only two paths: the one mapped out by Mr. Baker or a return to war.

A referendum on independence promised by the United Nations in 1991 has failed to materialise and the refugees, isolated in their desert wasteland, feel the world has forgotten them.

### Polisario keeps troops combat-ready

While not eager to return to war, Polisario has kept troops trained with the desert warfare skills of their nomadic ancestors, sending boys to the front with Morocco at age 18, and maintaining a supply of arms and tanks.

They also keep tight controls on the camps, keeping any signs of permanence to a minimum — there is not even a mosque — and fuelling the desire for independence with tales of horror in the morocco-controlled or "occupied" territory.

Polisario's critics have accused the group of intimidating some refugees into staying in the squalid camps to keep pressure on the international community.

Once shunned as a Marxist revolutionary, the Arab Sahara Democratic Republic proclaimed by Polisario is recognised by 72 countries, mostly in Africa,

South America and Asia, and gets arms and ammunition from Algeria.

It has a flag, a parliament of sorts and ministries for information, foreign affairs and defence among others.

Women elected by American-style town meetings run cooperative groups within the camps to distribute food, clothes, housing, health and education.

They work in collectives without pay and depend on aid from international groups. One teenager showed a visitor a decrepit truck he was fixing up, glowing with pride as he explained how he earned money to buy paint.

The refugees have learned to survive on very little, but aid workers say 15 to 20 per cent of the children suffer severe malnutrition. Others are stunted by inadequate iron and protein intake and rampant dysentery from contaminated water.

The population has a high level of eye disease because of sandstorms and glare, and thyroid problems.

"These have these diseases only because they are refugees and living in these difficult conditions. These are not native to the population," said a Spanish nurse who works at one of the

camp hospitals.

A report by U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said water supplies at the camps, usually from shallow wells drawing on the same water table that the latrines empty into, were among the worst in the world.

"I've lost sympathy for the Polisario after seeing how they've let their people waste away in refugee camps," said one U.N. worker who did not want to be named.

Diplomats in the region say privately that the international community is eager to resolve the conflict in part because of the plight of the refugees, but also because it is an irritant in a sensitive region at NATO's southern flank.

They see the solution as some sort of federal state for Western Sahara within Morocco rather than full independence.

But for desert survivors like the Sahrawi refugees, there is only one route home.

"If we return to our land, it will be with dignity," Mrs. Khalil said. "We would rather live here in these hard conditions than there with oppression and colonisation."

## Nomads doing just fine during Mongolia's economic turmoil

**SEROON HUITEN, Mongolia (AP)** — Like many other Mongolian nomads, Badamhand's lifestyle is so similar to her ancestors' that most of it would seem familiar to Genghis Khan.

She lives in a "ger," a circular wooden-framed tent covered with white cloth and felt made from sheep wool. Smoke from the dung she burns to heat the ger and cook food rises through a round hole in the roof.

But Khan, the 13th-century Mongolian conqueror, would be shocked by some other sights at her home in southern Mongolia: solar panels, electric lights and a television set. Badamhand said she will soon buy a video cassette recorder.

The changes are a few examples of the way nomadic communities have been changing since Mongolia abandoned Communist rule in 1990.

A populist movement forced the government to adopt democracy and capitalism that year, and Mongolia has since been dismantling its centralised Communist economy with free-market reforms.

The reforms have led to high unemployment, food shortages and inflation in cities and towns. But the nomads' bartering system and livestock supplies have protected them. And many are making more money selling their sheep and cattle in a free market.

Travelling through the wide open plains of Mongolia, few changes were apparent.

Badamhand, 45, and Tumurbatar, 48, follow traditions that are widely practised by fellow nomads.

They dismantle their ger with each season's change and move it across Mongolia's sparse plains to find better grazing land for their horses, sheep and goats.

There are no fences or permanent homes in rural areas and all the land remains in the public domain.

They still do most of their travelling on horseback, often carrying a lariat at the end of a long pole to catch

their livestock. Whenever they need to buy something beyond the meat and milk that they produce, they usually prefer to barter, not use money.

And on special occasions, such as on election day, they proudly dress in traditional wide-sashed robes, embroidered boots and ceremonial pointed hats.

Early economic reforms gave all state-owned livestock to the nomads, removed limits on the number they could own, and freed them to sell or barter their cows, sheep, horses, camels and yaks — and dairy products and cashmere — for any price they could get.

Across Mongolia, livestock numbers soared, and the nomads used their traditions of self-reliance and hard work to prosper. With this prosperity, more and more nomads are buying products such as motorcycles and power generators. Some — such as Badamhand and Tumurbatar — own solar panels and televisions.

"Before, nomads couldn't work hard and get rich in Mongolia because of the Communists. Now we can and this is good," Badamhand said in an interview inside her ger.

"Our life is getting better. I guess we could even be considered middle-class nomads now," she said with a laugh.

The solar panels, which the couple bought with cash three years ago from a travelling salesman, provide the power needed for electric lights, another rarity inside candle-lit gers.

They could do that because the herds they inherited from their nomadic parents and those they received from the state have now grown to 700 horses, cows and sheep.

Like many nomads who live within a two-hour drive of Ulan Bator, the capital, the couple have sent their son to college there.

They plan to rely on him to carry rented videos to their ger on weekends aboard his motorcycle.

## 'Government attempts at computer surveillance are risky, costly'

By Elizabeth Weise  
The Associated Press

**SAN FRANCISCO** — The U.S. government wants to ensure that law enforcement officials have electronic "keys" giving them access to every computer in the country. But that may be technologically impossible and could add billions of dollars to the cost of computer systems, experts say.

In response, the government said the computer experts have set up an easily-knocked-down straw man, because their report considers only the worst of worst cases.

The report, issued last week by a team of scientists and researchers in the field of computer security, looks at a type of computer security

known as key escrow.

It is based on computer encryption programmes that use mathematical procedures to scramble data so that it is difficult or impossible for anyone but an intended recipient to decode and read.

In key escrow, each coded message comes with a key that can unlock it. Because governments worldwide are concerned about the ability of criminals to use computers to hide information, some of them want copies of those keys.

In the opinion of the experts, it will not work.

First, they say, it injects an element of risk into a system which is supposed to foster confidence by creating an outside party with access to supposedly secure

information.

Any key recovery system would create centralised databases holding thousands and even millions of keys — high-value targets more likely to be worth the cost and risk of hacker attacks than anything now existing.

"It is mind-boggling to imagine the scale of the repositories that would need to be created," said Hal Abelson of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), one of the report's authors.

Second, a fully functioning key recovery infrastructure is an extraordinarily complex system, which only adds to the possibility of catastrophic failure.

From a purely technical standpoint, the scientists say, universal key escrow

would be almost bound to fail. Every programme has a bug or two. Large complex programmes, which this level of key escrow would require, would surely contain several. Each of those flaws makes the system vulnerable to breakdown or attack — the computer equivalent of handing out keys and maps to every house in America.

And finally, the report concludes, the costs of the extensive system desired by the government have been neither described nor demonstrated, but are likely to be very high.

What extensive system is that, wondered William Reinsch of the Bureau of Export Administration in the Department of Commerce, the agency that regu-

lates the export of programmes using strong cryptography.

The researchers appear to be envisioning a single, key management system for the entire world geared to meeting all law enforcement's needs.

"They have imagined a system that is not the one we intend to create, and having imagined it, they then proceed to knock it down," Mr. Reinsch said.

Rather than one centralised system, the government expects private businesses to build their own key escrow databases.

Say, for example, the Bank of America decided to promote electronic banking. It would need strong encryption to make it safe for customers to use the sys-

tem. "But you'd probably want key recovery in case your customers lose their key," Mr. Reinsch said.

It's those smaller, decentralised systems that law enforcement would use, rather than setting up one massive, central system, he said.

Other critics point out that the groups and companies involved in putting the report together have an economic stake in getting the government give up on its efforts to promote key escrow systems.

U.S.-based companies are currently restricted by law from exporting programmes containing strong encryption, which locks them out of an increasingly important international market.

## Iraq loses hundreds of millions with cut in oil exports — analysts

DUBAI (AFP) — Iraq has lost hundreds of millions of dollars because of its suspension of U.N.-authorized oil sales and will not be able to recoup its losses, oil industry officials and analysts said Tuesday.

The second term of the U.N. oil-for-food deal gave Iraq from June 8 until September to export \$1 billion worth of crude.

The U.N. Security Council on Monday rejected an Iraqi bid to postpone implementation of the second term until a new food distribution plan has been approved.

"Iraq has already lost several hundred million dollars," said Manouscher Takin, an expert with the Centre for Global Energy Studies in London, contacted by telephone.

Iraq would have to export two million barrels a day (bpd), at current mar-

ket prices, to meet the \$1 billion sales target by the deadline of early September.

"Assuming that Iraq resumes oil sales next week, it would still have to export two million bpd, which is not possible. It cannot make up for the time lost," another oil expert warned.

Iraq's export capacity runs at between 1.3 million and 1.6 million bpd, he said, estimating the losses of the sanctions-hit country at around \$500 million because of its suspension of exports in June.

The oil-for-food deal allows Iraq to export \$2 billion worth of oil, in two 90-day periods, to finance imports of humanitarian supplies.

It was launched in December, easing the sanctions which were slapped on Iraq for its August 1990

invasion of Kuwait and have stayed in place since the 1991 Gulf war when it was evicted from the emirate.

U.N. officials have said Secretary General Kofi Annan is expected to approve the new distribution plan in the coming days, clearing the way for Iraq to resume exports.

But Baghdad, which has protested at U.N. delays in approving its food and medicine contracts and said its oil sales were not bringing in the goods, still has to finalise its oil contracts.

"Iraq has to submit a pricing formula and sign contracts with the clients. Exports will not be able to start up again before mid-August at the earliest," predicted an official of a European client for Iraqi oil.

In New York, diplomats

said Iraqi Ambassador Nizar Hamdoun approached Security Council President Peter Osvald on Friday to argue that the oil exports should only be counted from the time the distribution plan is approved.

But the Security Council agreed that Resolution 1111 clearly stipulates the second six-month phase of the oil-for-food arrangement came into force on June 8, the diplomats said.

In Resolution 1111, adopted on June 4, the Security Council renewed for a further 180 days, starting from June 8, the oil-for-food arrangement.

Iraq's suspension of exports curbed a slide in crude prices, keeping them at above \$18 a barrel, to the satisfaction of its enemies such as Saudi Arabia, the oil expert noted.

## Value of Kuwait foreign investment rise by \$10 billion

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's 1996/97 earnings from its huge foreign investments could exceed actual oil revenue of over three billion dinars (\$9.85 billion) for the previous fiscal year, Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) said Tuesday.

"Preliminary estimates indicate that our return on investment in 1996/97 (July-June) could exceed the state's 1995/96 oil revenue of more than three billion dinars," KIA chief Ali Al Bader told Reuters.

The value of KIA's global holdings are a state secret but banking sources estimate the current worth of the investment portfolio at around \$40 billion.

"Return in 1995/96 was

about 18 per cent and 1996/97 is expected to be around 20 per cent. It all depends on (world) market performance," he added.

But economists argue that KIA, the state investment arm, should not calculate appreciation in the value of various assets as a return on investment.

"Firms calculate appreciation say in the price of real estate or stock assets as a return on investment but country's should not do that," said Kuwaiti economist Jassem Al Saadoun.

"It is dangerous to do that because what will happen if the market moved in the negative direction. This should not

be seen as profit because we did not liquidate the assets, their value rose but we still hold them," said the leading Kuwaiti economist. "KIA must use conservative accounting methods."

In May KIA cut its stake in British Petroleum to 6.3 per cent by selling 170 million shares for \$2 billion which executives said would be reinvested on the London market.

Earnings from KIA's overseas operations are traditionally reinjected into the portfolio which was worth more than \$100 billion prior to Iraq's 1990 invasion of the oil-rich state.

By law, 10 per cent of total state revenues in the budget is deposited in the overseas investment nest egg which fell to around \$30 billion after paying for the huge costs of the

1991 Gulf war to free Kuwait of a seven-month Iraqi occupation and reconstruction programmes.

Kuwait's 1997/98 budget forecasts an oil revenue of 2.56 billion dinars — almost unchanged from the previous year — and a total revenue of 3.105 billion dinars.

Actual figures for the previous fiscal year which ended June 30, 1997 have not been issued yet but officials and economists say oil revenue exceeded projections due to a rise in world oil prices.

In recent years Kuwait, with an OPEC quota of two million barrels per day, has calculated its oil revenue at a conservative weighted average of \$13.5 a barrel but Kuwaiti crudes exceeded that by some \$5 a barrel in 1996, bankers say.

REUTERS

REUTERS

### The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NSG	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.8297	0.6138	1.5142	117.70	1.3853	1747.00	20622	6.1724
DE Mark	0.5465	1.0000	0.3352	0.6277	64.30	0.7568	976.24	11268	3.3732
GB Sterling	1.6296	2.9831	1.0000	2.4862	191.89	2.2575	2911.56	33596	10.6567
CH Franc	0.6604	1.2037	0.4051	1.0000	77.74	0.9148	1179.15	136.18	4.0748
JP Yen	0.0085	1.5534	0.0206	1.2851	1.0000	1.1760	15.16	175.06	5.2377
CA Dollar	0.7219	1.3279	0.4346	1.0980	1.18	1.0000	1290.72	14958	4.4753
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0230	0.3429	0.0846	1519.99	0.7746	1.0000	11.53	3.4491
NL Guilder	0.4849	0.8870	0.2972	0.7339	57.05	0.6716	865.88	1.0000	2.9858
FR Franc	0.1620	0.2964	0.0994	0.2452	19.05	0.2245	33.41	33.4100	1.0000

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LEB	EGP
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7080	3.7506	0.3770	3.6398	3.0044	3.6728	1539.00	3.3825
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	1.0000	5.2973	0.5325	5.1410	4.4298	5.1876	2173.73	4.7775
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1888	1.0000	0.1005	0.97	0.812	0.98	410.35	0.9019
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8781	9.3488	1.0000	9.88	8.075	9.74	4082.44	8.9728
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0304	1.0304	1.0000	0.836	1.01	422.83	0.9293
Kuwait Dinar	3.2852	2.3259	12.3210	1.2384	11.96	12.07	12.07	5055.85	0.9293
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	1.0212	1.0208	0.9910	0.8829	1.0000	419.03	0.9210
Lebanese/1000	0.65	0.4600	2.4370	0.2460	2.3680	2.3680	2.3680	1.0000	2.1979
Egyptian	0.2955	0.2093	1.1088	0.1115	1.0761	0.9090	1.0858	454.99	1.0000

Energy		Oil	Previous
Brent	19.13	19.21	
WTI	19.63	19.54	
Bonny	19.13	19.21	
Dubai	17.80	17.62	
UL Gas	196.00	196.00	

Mid-East Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NSG	FRF
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4880	0.16363	0.40378	31.408				
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.49908	0.16709	0.41246	32.0739				
KW Dinar	3.2852	6.02047	2.01613	4.97512	386.397				
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.86145	1.62787	4.01929	312.5				
CH Pound	1.8585	3.3559	1.1385	2.8055	218.425				

Metal Prices		Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	326.6	327.1	
Silver (oz's)	4.34	4.38	
Platinum (oz's)	426	429	
AL (3 Months)	1690	1694	
CU (3 Months)	2346	2347	
Zinc (3 Months)	1470	1480	
Lead (3 Months)	630	635	
NI (3 Months)	7435	7440	

Currency Deposit Rates (Bidi)									
Period	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NSG	FRF
1 Month	5.51	5.58	5.59	5.73	5.83				
3 Months	6.81	7.05	7.19	7.06	7.50				
6 Months	8.42	8.68	8.80	8.68	8.89				
9 Months	9.33	9.32	9.34	9.30	9.38				
12 Months	10.31	10.30	10.38	10.34	10.35				
15 Months	11.55	11.56	11.64	11.56	11.74				
18 Months	12.78	12.82	12.93	12.82	13.03				

Main Equity Indices									
Index	Value	Change	% Change	High	Low	Pre-Close	Open	Close	Settle
New York DOW JONES	8116.46	-4.85	-0.06	8133.88	8082.07	8121.11			
New York S&P 500	935.99	-0.46	-0.05	937.31	932.56	935.45			
London FT-SE 100	4873	10.4	0.21	4885.5	4856.7	4862.6			
Tokyo NIKKEI 225	20402.74	-172.52	-0.84	20698.7	20402.7	20575.3			
Paris CAC 40	3024.4	2.2	0.07	3042.33	3015.19	3022.2			
Frankfurt DAX	4381.69	10.53	0.24	4398.67	4378.63	4371.16			

Energy		Spot	Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	200.25	Spot	
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1564	Spot	
Sugar (\$/ton)	348	Spot	
Wheat (\$/ton)	144	Spot	
Soya (c/lbs)	21.84	Spot	
Tea (c/lbs)	137	Spot	
Barley (\$/bush)	0	Spot	
Rice (\$/ton)	480	Spot	

JOD Cross Rates		Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710	
GB Sterling	1.1544	1.1602	
DE Mark	0.3852	0.3871	
CH Franc	0.4675	0.4695	
FR Franc	0.1142	0.1148	
JP Yen	0.6022	0.6032	
NL Guilder	0.3418	0.3435	
IT Lira	0.3357	0.3377	

Source: Central Bank of Jordan

### NEW GENERAL MANAGER FOR SHARM EL SHEIKH MARRIOTT BEACH RESORT

THE AREA Vice-President for Marriott in the Middle East Region, Harry Boschhaert, has just appointed Jose Ismail as the new General Manager for Sharm El Sheikh Marriott Beach Resort - Egypt.

Mr. Ismail is a Jordanian, married with two children. He is a 17 year veteran of Marriott, who began his career at the Amman Marriott Hotel in 1981 as a Front Desk Supervisor. After receiving several promotions and reaching the position of Resident Manager at the Amman Marriott, Mr. Ismail moved to the Cairo Marriott Hotel in 1991 to assume the position of Executive Assistant Manager. In 1993 Mr. Ismail transferred to the Warsaw Marriott where he worked as both Resident Manager and Director of Operations prior to his move to Sharm El Sheikh to assume the position of General Manager.



### TWO FURNISHED-GROUND-APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Each consists of 2 bedrooms, salon, 2 bathrooms within a new building, separate entrance, large planted garden, garage with a roof, independent heating, elevator, a building guard. New furniture and electrical appliances that were not used before. Gardens Street.

For those concerned please call Tel. 5534812, Mohammad Shafiq, mobile: 25387

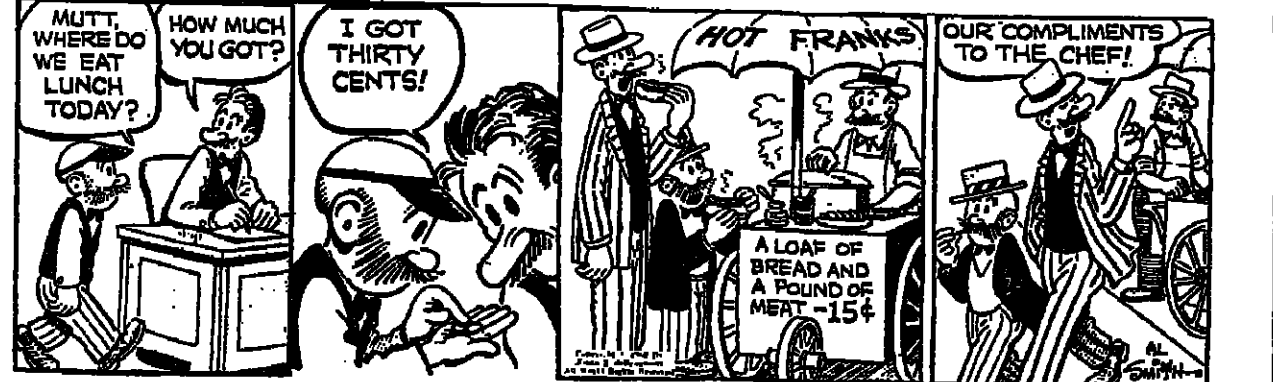
### Peanuts



### Andy Capp

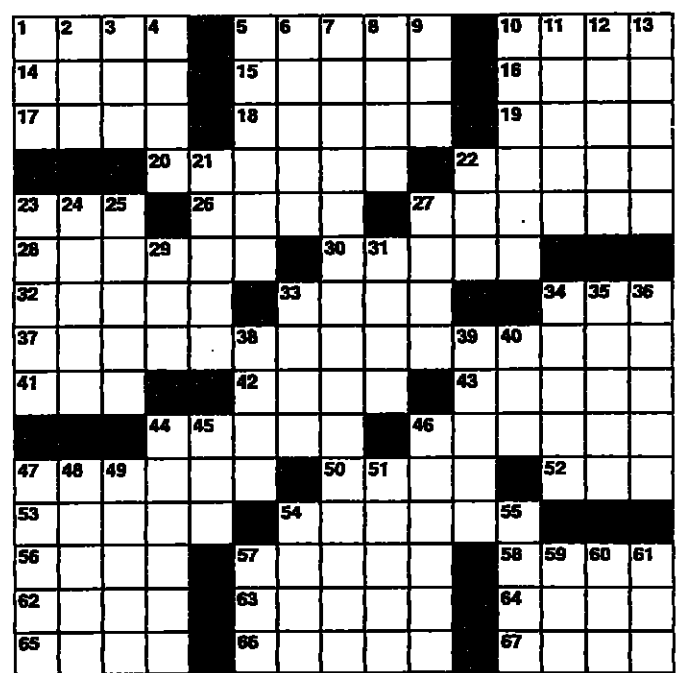


### Mutt'n'Jeff



### THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
- Twofold
  - Mantelpiece
  - At the summit
  - Italian wine
  - Flutter
  - Davenport
  - Folk singer, Joan
  - Hippodrome
  - Ship's boom
  - Turkish capital
  - Places a call
  - Prado or Tate, abbr.
  - Wriggling
  - Drink down greedily
  - Depth charge
  - Building material
  - Swindler
  - Largest of seven
  - Select
  - Conclusion of 7D
  - Hockey great
  - Sedimentary material
  - Slender's kin
  - Emerson's middle name
  - Juxtaposed
  - Disinclined
  - Sordid
  - Crag
  - Wife of Augustus
  - Strike out
  - Blue-pencil
  - Varnish ingredient
  - Molten rock
  - For —'s sake!
  - Series of eight
  - Stravinsky ballet
  - Rime
  - Tales from the Vienna —
  - Following



by Samuel K. Flegner

### Wednesday's Puzzle solved:

CONESTOGAS	STEM
EMANCIPATE	HERO
DEMARCATED	IMAM
AGE OKLA	ADEPT
RADDLES	STOLE
OLD CHILDREN	
COATS BRAVE	AMO
ELITE PRIME	ATMO
NOIL FRAME	GLEAN
TOOCLOSE	JAM
WHAT'S SERAPHUS	
FARGO OHTO	ROY
LONI CAPISTRANO	
ARCS OPERATED	ON
DEEM	LOSTMEMORY

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- DOWN
- Small portion
  - "Born in the —"
  - Devoured
  - Judy's daughter
  - Unnerved
  - Every 60 minutes
  - Start of a proverb
  - Siberian river
  - Religious brother
  - Certain edict
  - November birthstone
  - "Money is the root — evil"
  - Analyze grammatically
  - Under, to poets
  - Name
  - He-man
  - Theater employee
  - Snip
  - Objective
  - Edsel, e.g.
  - Count calories
  - Surrounded by
  - Revolution
  - Child: pref.
  - "Tippecanoe and — too"
  - Key
  - Amada
  - Musical encore
  - Ghost or sky follower
  - Busy — bee
  - Amalgamations
  - Hebrew letter
  - Boob tube
  - Madonna role
  - Greek epic
  - Art
  - Verve
  - Skid —
  - Vital statistic
  - populi
  - Aardvark's tidbit

### HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Rafter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You may have a difficult time getting your ideas across to others today, however, profit from any constructive criticism. Be wary of strangers later this evening who have the intent to do physical harm.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) This is a good time today to make any changes in your budget which will help you to save money and make your career activities much more successful. Stick to your first impulses later this evening and devise a good course of action.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Try to balance your time today to make more equitable between worries and pleasure. Eliminate any difficulties which have been causing you stress and thereby you will feel better and more likely live a great deal longer.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You should not become involved today in a disagreement with fellow associates over how best to handle a new project. Be ethical in all your career activities and thereby you can achieve the appreciation of bigwigs.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) You can improve your relationships with others today by trying to understand their motives. Avoid any self-serving acquaintances later this evening who will only be looking out for their best interest and could cause you difficulties.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) A difficult situation at your career activities could put you in a bad mood, however, you should not bring the difficulties home with you for your loved ones to deal with. Be cautious while driving on the highway later this evening.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) When labouring on a difficult situation with a family member today, remember that honesty is still the best policy. Set aside some time for relaxation later this evening, since the days ahead will be quite hectic.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Take care of payments and collections today, and get your finances in better order, thereby you will have extra funds. Settle hat long-standing disagreement with your mate later this evening, and go to romantic location together.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) If you want others to along with your ideas today, you would be wise to use more tact in your actions. Be sure of the facts before signing any contracts, thereby you avoid any difficulties from developing.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You should not let a person interfere with your efficiency at career activities. A usually-reliable adviser may be in the wrong, so be cautious of the suggestion which he or she brings to your attention.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) If a good friend gives you some constructive criticism today, remember that it is well-intended. Discuss upcoming social activities with your mate and thereby you can make your time together quite memorable.



## CBJ issues certificates of deposit worth JD140m

By Abdul Salam Al Gharabeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Tuesday issued JD140 million worth of certificates of deposit (CDs) for three and six-month terms and called on licensed banks to send their offers no later than 12:00 noon today.

However, the CBJ said the ceiling any bank can buy is 40 per cent of the value of certificates on offer.

The CBJ will announce results of the auction on Thursday so that payment in lieu of the purchased deposit certificates be made no later than Saturday.

The CBJ said the mandatory reserve of the banking sector amounted to JD491.1 million as of Monday, adding that the surplus reserve amounted to JD110 million.

The CBJ Tuesday informed licensed Jordanian banks of its regular issues and dates of floating them until the end of this year. In a memorandum to the banks, the CBJ said it might float irregular issues as and when the circumstances warrant.

The interest rate on certificates of deposit, whose maturity date was on July 19, is 8.40 per cent for the three-month deposits and 8.50 per cent for the six-month deposits.

## Jordanian, Palestinian investors to set up projects in Gaza

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen have agreed to establish two joint industrial projects in Gaza and to discuss the possibility of establishing two more projects, according to Haidar Murad, president of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce.

Monday, said the two sides agreed to increase the volume of trade between the two countries and to intensify work to overcome obstacles facing the flow of goods between both sides.

Mr. Murad said the delegation members discussed with Palestinian ministers means of enhancing economic cooperation and overcoming obstacles facing commercial exchange.

Mr. Murad said the delegation's talks with

their Palestinian counterparts were successful, adding that some Palestinian businessmen showed interest in establishing industrial projects in Jordan.

Mr. Murad also said that his delegation called on the Palestinian side to reconsider the customs duties imposed on Jordanian exports to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) areas, adding that this subject will be followed up by Palestinian officials.

## Arab investors to set up Islamic leasing firm in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB) is leading a group of Kuwaiti and other mainly Arab investors in a project to set up an Islamic leasing company here, a shareholder has said.

The International Leasing and Investment Company (ILIC), which is to have capital of \$50 million, will be incorporated in Kuwait under a special law, said the shareholder, asking not to be named. ILIC is "under establishment" and "two months from now we should start operations," the shareholder said. IDB, which provides devel-

opment finance, is heading the project with the largest stake of 33 per cent. The other non-Kuwaiti investors include Saudi Arabia's National Commercial Bank and Qatar International Islamic Bank.

Talks are also being held with potential partners from Japan and the United States to act as advisors and take small shareholdings.

The new firm will be established under a special law proposed by the Kuwaiti government and now being approved by parliament. The special law is required because the new firm will be

capitalised in dollars not Kuwaiti dinars and the foreign ownership is set to exceed the 49 per cent restriction on non-Kuwaiti investors in local firms.

The Kuwaiti shareholders include several government bodies, as well as international investment group and the country's only Islamic bank, Kuwait Finance House.

Islamic leasing is similar to conventional leasing whereby the client pays for equipment by installments, but differs in its details because the Islamic laws of Sharia do not allow the payment of interest.

## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

### Jordanians express views on recession in local market

A SURVEY conducted by the Arabic daily Al Ra'i shows the main concerns of traders and highlights their views on the market situation and the solutions to activate business dealings.

Youssef Dasouji, a merchant, said the improvement of local products resulted in higher prices which were not matched by any increase in the salaries of employees. He added that most traders depend on selling to expatriates and visitors but due to the small number of Palestinians coming to Jordan and the unstable job security of the expatriates, spending was limited and minimal and, consequently, trade activity was affected. Mr. Dasouji said high prices of local products were the result of an increase in the sales tax and higher customs even on raw materials, especially in the textile industry.

"For the situation to return to what it was three years ago, taxes on production or sales should be reduced and salaries of employees should be raised," Mr. Dasouji added.

Allam Saad Eddin, another merchant, repeated what others have said with regard to high customs duties and sales tax and added that merchants also bear business costs and family expenses in addition to annual taxes. "All of these factors cause prices to rise and to be borne by the consumer," he said.

Fatima Sharqawi, an employee, called for giving higher wages to employees and providing jobs to the unemployed to ease the jobless rate noting that such measures will reflect on the situation of the market.

"The recession is a result of the bad economic conditions of the employees and the traders' reliance on expatriates and Israeli Arabs," she pointed out. "The local person does not shop except on main occasions and celebrations if he/she can afford it. Ms. Sharqawi said the fluctuation of prices and low income of employees have caused this state of recession.

Fathi Qatameez, a businessman attributed the recession to the government which is interested in collecting money by issuing licences to investors without considering the viability of the projects. He indicated that there are tens of hotel projects in the Petra area which cannot absorb more than two hotels. He said that in some areas of Amman the number of licences issued for institutions, shops and offices has reached the number of entities licensed all over Jordan in 1985.

He explained that in Amman alone there are about 48,000 institutions and shops for nearly 1,600,000 inhabitants. "This is more than the size of the city," he indicated noting that this situation widens the distribution of income and, as such, causes a decline in earnings (Al Ra'i).

JORDANIAN FINANCIAL MARKET										
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDANISAM										
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179										
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 29/07/1997										
PART 12 MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	P / S	DIV.	NO. OF	NO. OF	VALUE	OPEN	CLOSE	CHANGE	
HIGH	LOW			SHARES	SHARES	TRADED	PRICE	PRICE		
298.000	214.500	ARAB BANK	13.3	1.28	3	60	17340	287.50	289.00	1.50+
2.340	1.680	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	E	0.00	16	4090	12478	2.06	2.05	-0.01
1.210	0.880	NID. EAST INV. BK.	59.8	0.00	2	1000	910	0.91	0.91	-
10.480	2.150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	7.4	7.69	3	1250	2748	2.19	2.20	0.01+
5.200	4.400	THE HOUSING BK.	14.5	4.01	2	450	1670	1.80	1.68	-0.04
4.180	2.440	JOR. KINSHIP BANK	10.5	0.00	5	1350	3973	2.93	2.95	0.02+
1.050	0.780	JOR. GULF BANK	4.6	8.97	9	10200	7909	0.77	0.78	0.01+
4.050	1.480	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.7	3.12	18	13100	5036	3.86	3.85	-0.01
1.790	1.110	UNION RE. SAV. INV.	P	0.00	3	1150	1484	1.36	1.29	-0.07
3.800	3.000	JOR. INV. FID. BANK	21.7	0.00	13	2450	8181	3.30	3.37	0.07+
2.460	1.000	REIT. AL-WAL. (REITWA)	7.7	12.51	1	250	278	1.14	1.12	-0.03
1.440	0.850	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	0.00	8	45750	42845	0.95	0.95	-
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 213.90 +0.49										
2.260	1.590	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	4.5	12.42	4	2580	4153	1.60	1.61	0.01+
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 113.85 +0.05										
1.820	1.500	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.0	6.02	10	5366	8863	1.65	1.66	0.01+
2.780	2.150	SHIPPING LINES	16.4	4.63	6	12200	34178	2.75	2.82	0.06+
1.550	0.930	NATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	29	23600	32474	1.39	1.38	-0.01
8.820	6.900	ALRA'1	12.4	7.75	6	1750	12100	7.00	6.90	-0.10
3.720	2.890	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	7.7	0.00	1	750	2213	2.95	2.95	-
1.220	0.930	SARAA EDUCATION	9	0.00	1	100	95	0.94	0.95	0.01+
2.230	1.430	UNIFIED CO.	8.0	6.51	1	250	423	1.68	1.69	0.01+
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 108.17 +0.25										
4.450	3.100	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	26.7	2.77	22	30942	12283	4.00	3.97	-0.03
4.140	2.710	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	11.0	2.53	1	500	1975	4.00	3.95	-0.05
10.480	2.040	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.4	9.13	8	386	3569	9.73	9.74	0.01+
3.260	1.650	INDUSTRIAL COM. AG.	9	0.00	1	1000	1680	1.70	1.68	-0.02
4.100	3.040	ARAB PHARM. IND.	11.0	5.00	11	4167	16674	4.00	4.00	-
7.250	5.710	JOR. CHEMICAL IND.	6.2	3.33	1	400	2400	6.00	6.00	-
1.800	1.310	JOR. PAPER IND.	16.2	6.11	3	1050	1376	1.31	1.31	-
5.650	4.300	DAR ALZAMAR DV. INV.	13.0	4.72	4	850	4485	5.30	5.30	-
3.850	2.400	ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.6	10.42	6	1025	2477	2.45	2.40	-0.05
960	450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9.5	0.00	4	4000	1810	0.45	0.45	-
1.310	1.000	ARAB PAPER COM. TRD.	31.5	0.00	1	500	515	1.03	1.03	-
1.520	0.910	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	1	250	220	0.91	0.88	-0.03
1.290	0.510	INTERNED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	9	7100	3763	0.53	0.53	-
990	530	JOR. ROCKWELL IND.	9	0.00	6	1100	1011	0.57	0.60	0.03+
2.980	1.520	UNIV. CHEM. IND.	13.7	6.58	1	300	456	1.55	1.52	-0.03
940	530	JOR. SULPHUR-CHEN	9	0.00	19	7700	4528	0.61	0.60	-0.01
1.670	1.120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	17.1	5.22	12	7724	10349	1.35	1.34	-0.01
1.430	0.740	KAMRIS INVEST.	71.9	0.00	5	2150	1583	0.74	0.73	-0.01
2.020	1.080	UNIV. HOUS. IND.	9	0.00	13	7900	8794	1.12	1.12	-
1.510	0.990	JOR. IND. RESOURCES	13.7	9.80	8	2600	2657	1.00	1.02	0.02+
1.600	1.300	NATL. CEMENT CO.	15.2	4.35	108	143550	228410	1.53	1.61	0.08+
1.070	0.810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.2	0.00	3	600	499	0.83	0.83	-
1.320	1.080	INTL. TOBACCO	6.2	0.00	4	2000	2280	1.14	1.14	-
1.260	0.860	UNION CH. & VEG.	40.9	0.00	8	4350	3900	0.89	0.90	0.01+
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 123.39 +0.35										
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 164.70 +0.14										
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 29/07/1997										
660	410	JOR. TRADE FAC.	11.2	0.00	10	23500	9870	0.43	0.42	-0.01
1.550	1.070	SARAA FOR INVESTMENT	74.8	0.00	7	5000	57000	1.14	1.14	-
950	540	JOR. FID. INV. CO.	9	0.00	13	33124	789	0.60	0.60	-
840	660	UNION INV. 501	9	0.00	8	34550	6565	0.69	0.69	-
820	370	ARAB FID. INVEST.	9	0.00	14	12900	5547	0.43	0.43	-
950	720	AL-SHARQ INV. 751	P	0.00	16	21750	13258	0.83	0.86	0.03+
950	610	AL-SHARQ INV. 751	61.4	0.00	2	2000	780	0.64	0.64	-
480	200	JOR. IND. JEWELRY-JEMCO	9	0.00	3	2500	650	0.26	0.26	-
730	510	ARAB FOOD & MED.	9	0.00	6	5200	2704	0.52	0.52	-
570	380	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	44.9	0.00	2	1250	489	0.39	0.39	-
720	440	NATL. TEXTILE	9	0.00	4	297	128	0.44	0.44	-
750	400	NATL. WOLF. IND. JEMCO	9	0.00	10	12550	6804	0.48	0.48	-
640	430	KATKAT DIES & MOLDERS	9	0.00	1	1000	1230	0.43	0.43	-
620	710	JORDAN STEEL	33.0	6.85	18	31541	22983	0.72	0.71	-0.02
730	580	HIDRAT PAPER. 751	9	0.00	2	1000	590	0.60	0.60	-
670	550	NATL. PAPER. 851	9	0.00	35	136920	6154	0.60	0.61	0.01+
600	320	IND. ENG.	9	0.00	2	1250	425	0.35	0.34	-0.01
820	590	NATL. POLYESTER	9	0.00	4	1700	850	1.14	1.14	-
1.000	730	NAT. ALUMINUM. 751	9	0.00	4	1700	850	1.14	1.14	-
860	590	NID. EAST COMPLEX	8.1	15.15	9	6600	4361	0.68	0.66	-0.02
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 167 367732 203382										
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FRIDAT  
BEEDAT

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Answer: Where the conflicting instructions left the pilot - UP IN THE AIR

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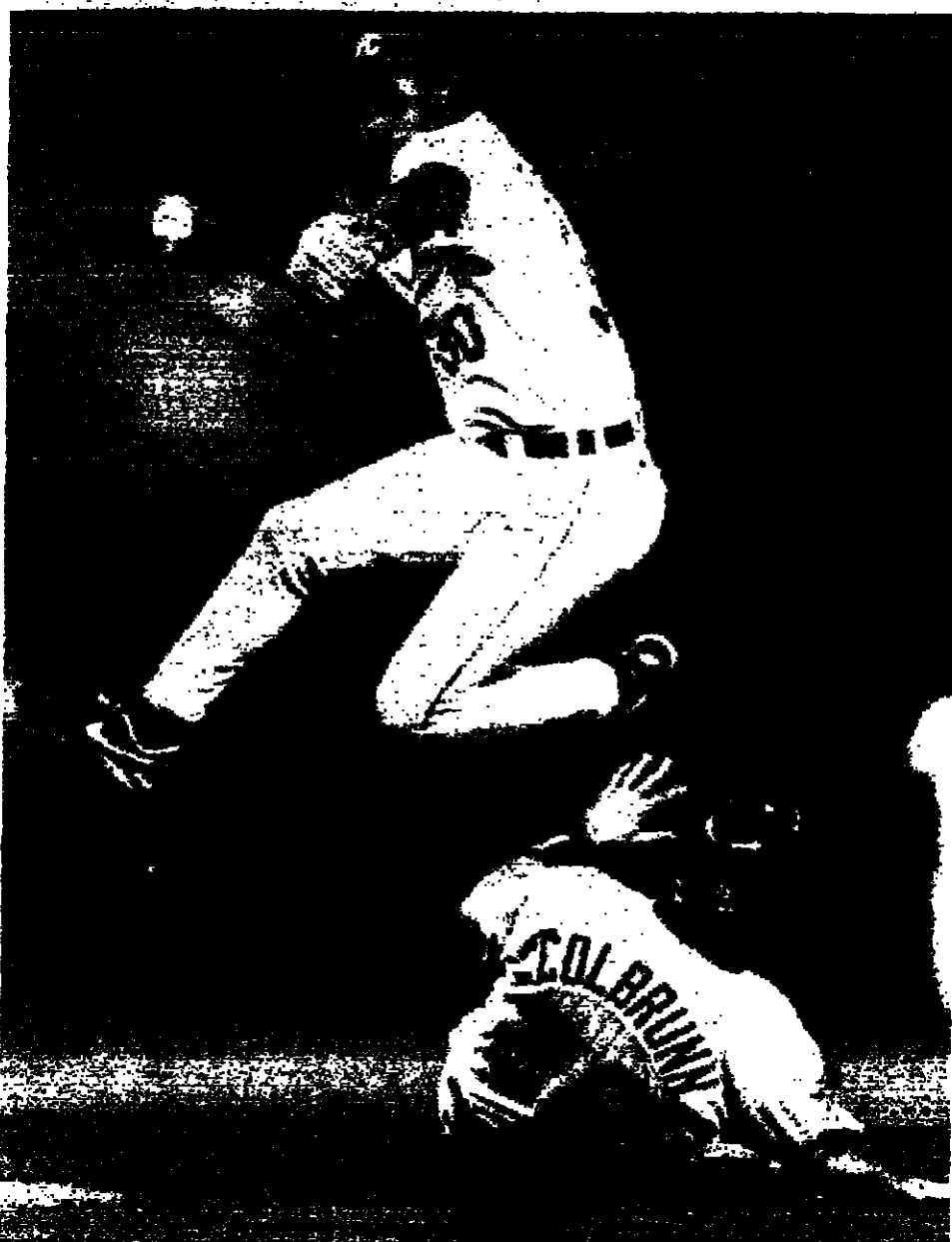
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Kansas City Royals' second baseman Jose Offerman leaps to avoid sliding Minnesota Twins' baserunner Greg Colbrunn in the top of the second inning in Kansas City. The Royals and Twins are playing the second game of a twilight doubleheader (Reuters photo)

## Neagle throws three-hitter as Braves beat Cubs 6-0

ATLANTA (R) — Denny Neagle threw a three-hitter for his third shutout of the season and Fred McGriff belted a three-run homer as the Atlanta Braves cruised to a 6-0 victory over the Chicago Cubs Monday.

Neagle (14-2) joined Houston's Darryl Kile as 14-game winners in the National League, one victory behind Atlanta's Greg Maddux. He helped the Braves open their lead in the National League east to a season-high seven games over the idle New York Mets.

"Even though it was a three-hit shutout, I didn't have my best stuff," said Neagle. "My goal every year is to get 15 wins. If you get to that, it's pretty good. Anything more is gravy. The only negative is just the way I felt. I felt a little lethargic."

In Los Angeles, Ismael Valdes pitched well in his first start off the disabled list and Greg Gagne snapped a fourth-inning tie with a two-run homer as the Dodgers won their fourth straight, 4-2 over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Valdes (6-9) allowed two runs and eight hits with five strikeouts in six innings. He threw 60 of his 81 pitches for strikes. Valdes strained his left hamstring running out a groundball on July 5. In his last four starts, he has surrendered only four runs and 20 hits over 26 1/3 innings, walking just one and striking out 20.

At Florida, Joe Oliver and Mike Kelly broke up a scoreless tie with back-to-back homers in the top of the ninth and three pitchers combined on an eight-hitter as the Cincinnati Reds blanked the slumping Marlins 4-0.

Stan Belinda (1-2) pitched a hitless eighth for his first win since August 14. Jeff Shaw allowed a hit in the ninth. Starter John Smiley gave up seven hits with no walks and six strikeouts over seven innings.

In Houston, Todd Stottlemyre allowed five hits over eight shutout innings and hit a key RBI double in the eighth as the St. Louis Cardinals defeated the Astros 2-1, snapping their nine-game winning streak. Stottlemyre (10-7) allowed a double and four singles, walking one and striking out seven.

In San Diego, Rico Brogna's three-run homer

highlighted a five-run sixth and Mark Leiter won on the road for the first time in nearly 10 weeks as the Philadelphia Phillies cooled off the Padres 8-4.

At Colorado, Henry

Rodriguez's double in the top of the sixth scored Rondell White with the go-ahead run as the Montreal Expos edged the Rockies 3-2, snapping a five-game losing streak.

### American League

Anaheim	2	Cleveland	0 (1st Game)
Anaheim	10	Cleveland	7 (2nd Game)
Milwaukee	1	Toronto	0 (1st Game)
Milwaukee	9	Toronto	3 (2nd Game)
Kansas City	10	Minnesota	3 (1st Game)
Kansas City	5	Minnesota	2 (2nd Game)
Baltimore	7	Texas	2
NY Yankees	4	Oakland	3

### National League

Cincinnati	4	Florida	0
Atlanta	6	Chicago Cubs	0
St. Louis	2	Houston	1
Montreal	3	Colorado	2
Los Angeles	4	Pittsburgh	2
Philadelphia	8	San Diego	4

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## Blackburn say Le Saux can leave

LONDON (R) — Blackburn Rovers said on Tuesday that England defender Graeme Le Saux could leave the club providing an offer of 7.5 million pounds (\$12.2 million) was forthcoming.

Club chairman Robert Coar said Le Saux had put in a written transfer request on Monday.

"The board have decided that it is in the best interests of Blackburn Rovers to grant the request, provided the club receives an offer reaching their valuation," Blackburn said in a statement.

"Having due regard to recent transfer activity the board have placed a valuation of 7.5 million on Graeme Le Saux," the statement added.

Le Saux, 28, was signed by former Blackburn coach Kenny Dalglish in March 1993 from Chelsea for 600,000 pounds (\$978,000).

Manager Roy Hodgson said on Monday that Le Saux could leave if the club agreed, if he wanted to depart and someone was prepared to pay the asking price.

Le Saux has been linked for some months to London club Arsenal. An Arsenal spokeswoman had no comment on the transfer listing. "This is Blackburn's news, not ours," she said.

## Williams wins; Rubin injured in San Diego

SAN DIEGO (AFP) — Since she elected to turn down wild card invitations and play her way through qualifying, Venus Williams has made the grade and battled her way through to the main draw every time.

On Monday she did it again, beating fellow American Sandra Cacic 7-6 (7/4) 6-4 to earn a first round meeting with Florencia Labat at WTA Tour event here.

Now ranked 64th in the world after starting the year at 211, her qualifying days may soon be over for ever.

"I got more (first) serves in than I have done in the past, but it was a tough match," said Williams, 17. "She's pretty consistent, but can make some mistakes too."

If Williams gets past Labat, she will face top seed Martina Hingis in

the second round.

Venus is still wearing her purple, green and white Wimbledon beads, in her hair because she's been too busy to spend the eight hours it takes to change them.

Since her disappointing first round defeat to Magdalena Grzybowska at Wimbledon she's been studying furiously.

"I've had summer school and done six weeks' work in three. I was studying up to 1 a.m. sometimes, but then my eyes got too tired," she said.

So she didn't watch Wimbledon. She couldn't have anyway, even if she'd had the time.

"We had storms and lightning struck our lightning rod and blew the TV satellite out, so I didn't see anything at all," she reported.

In first round action, eighth seed

Irina Spirlea of Romania eased past Russia's Elena Likhovtseva 6-3 6-3, but Chanda Rubin was forced to retire against Helena Sukova when she fell and twisted her ankle when trailing 5-6 in the opening set. Rubin attempted to continue after lengthy treatment, but retired with the Czech leading 7-5 3-0.

In other matches, Sandrine Testud crushed Asa Carlsion 6-1 6-2, and Natasha Zvereva outlasted Kimberly Po 7-6 (7/4) 2-6 6-1.

The top four seeds in the 450,000-dollar event — Hingis, Monica Seles, Arantxa Coetzter and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario — all received first round byes.

## Lowly Canadian stuns Henman

MONTREAL (AFP) — Ninth-seeded Czech Petr Korda and 10th-seeded Tim Henman of Britain were first-round casualties here Monday in the \$2.3 million Canadian Open ATP Tour tournament.

Little-known Canadian wild-card Sebastian Leblanc stunned Henman, ranked 18th in the world 7-6, 4-6, 6-3.

Korda became the latest victim of American giant-killer Justin Gimelstob.

Gimelstob beat French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten in the first round

of Wimbledon, and last week stopped former World No. 1 Andre Agassi in the first round in Los Angeles.

He beat Korda, ranked 16th in the world, 6-4, 6-4.

Gimelstob got his win in before rain delayed the afternoon and evening matches.

In other action, defending champion Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, the 13th seed, defeated Czech Daniel Vacek 7-6, 6-1.

The top eight seeds have first-round byes in the \$2.3 million event, one of the

ATP Tour's prestigious super 9 tournaments.

Michael Chang of the United States looks to continue his hardcourt dominance this week as the top seed.

Chang brings a 10-match winning streak on hard courts into this week's tournament. He has a 28-3 record on the surface this year, including titles in Memphis, Indian Wells, Hong Kong, and Washington two weeks ago.

The second seed is Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia, who owns a 44-15

match record this season, including a 16-6 mark on hard courts. He won his 18th and 19th career singles titles earlier this year at Zagreb and Milan, respectively, and reached the finals at Dubai and the Queen's Club.

World number one Pete Sampras withdrew from the event last week with a nagging arm injury.

## Mishaps mar U.S. national swimming championships

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (R) — In one of the most bizarre nights at a U.S. national swimming championship, a series of mishaps caused the meet to be delayed four times and a men's 100-metre freestyle final to be invalidated and raced again Monday.

Three power failures, caused by severe electrical storms, and a broken pool bulkhead — the facing at one end of the pool that holds the swimmers' touch pads in place — turned the event into mass confusion Monday night at the Tracy Caulkins pool.

Racing was delayed two hours, 26 minutes.

"We are getting a message that the finals are not meant to be swum tonight," said Olympic gold medalist Brooke Bennett, who won the 400-metre freestyle two hours after it was originally scheduled.

Bennett, 17, won her 11th national title in 4 minutes, 11.34 seconds, the seventh fastest time in the world this year.

"The lights went out, what, three times?" Bennett said. "And now the bulkhead falls apart. Let's take a hint here. It's just bizarre. I have never been at a meet where the lights went out."

During the men's 100-

metres freestyle final the pool's bulkhead pulled away from the edge of the pool midway through the race, forcing swimmers to touch unevenly.

Swim coaches tried to pull the bulkhead back in place while the race was in progress.

A pin popped off causing the bulkhead to pull a foot (30 cm) apart from lane 8. It stayed attached to lane 1, forcing the bulkhead to angle out, making for an uneven finish line and a 36-minute delay. The men's 100-metre freestyle was re-raced as the final event of the night after seven consolation and bonus finals.

The first men's 100 was nullified. Neil Walker, 21, had touched first in 49.46 and Scott Tucker, 22, was second in 49.74, top two

fastest times in the world this year.

In the re-race, Tucker (49.68) and Walker (49.70) finished in reverse order, still the two fastest world times this year.

Olympic double gold medalist Gary Hall finished fifth in the 100 in 50.32 and qualified for a relay at the World Championships.

In other action, Olympian Lea Loveless Maurer, 26, won the 100 backstroke in 1:01.53. Olympian Tom Malchow, 20, won the 200-metre butterfly in 1:58.37.

After three days, Olympians have won nine of the 13 individual events.

The top two finishers in each event qualify for the January 8-18 World Championships in Perth, Australia. The top two fin-

ishers in each event except the 100- and 200-metre freestyle events qualify for worlds. The top six in the 100- and 200- freestyle events qualify for relays.

Misty Hyman failed to make the final in the 100-metre backstroke by .01 seconds and scratched from the consolation final to rest for the 100-metre butterfly.

The seven-day meet, which ends Friday, is also a selection trials for the Pan Pacific Games in Fukuoka, Japan, August 10-13 and the World University Games, August 25-30 in Sicily, Italy.



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